

Family Page

Background Reflection

It is good to appreciate the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. There is something comforting, energizing, and humbling about knowing God is within us and is working through us to touch the lives of others. This reading encourages us to reflect on the gifts we have been given and how important they are to the community.

The Church teaches that there are seven spiritual gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord. When we look at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, many of us think we could not possibly possess them. We can doubt ourselves: "Me? Full of wisdom?" But the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit gives these spiritual gifts to everyone and that these gifts are strengthened and sealed in us at Confirmation. We can confidently say, "I have the Gift of Wisdom. Holy Spirit, help me use it today."

In addition to the Gifts of the Spirit, which we all receive, we each have diversified gifts and talents. We have been given these many gifts from God to build up the community. By recognizing and using these gifts and encouraging and supporting others to use their gifts, we can truly work together to share God's love with the world.

Family Activities

- Observe the gifts of each family member this week. Point out to them the value of their gifts and how much they are appreciated.
- Engage the gift of Wonder and Awe by taking a walk, admiring nature, and discussing the miracle of creation. Talk about ways the family can stay aware of these miracles and take care of the environment.
- Watch the video "C4: Ignite your Catholic Faith—Why is Confirmation Important?" (YouTube, 2:17) together. Discuss what it means to live the mission of Christ and how each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is used for this mission.

People of Faith

Pope Saint John Paul II (1920–2005)

Karol Wojtyla had to attend seminary in secret, because Poland had been invaded by Nazi Germany and religious houses were closed. As a priest he loved working with young people and sharing outdoor activities with them. Elected Pope in 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla chose the name John Paul II. He shared his love for Jesus and Mary with all the youth of the world when he began World Youth Day. Pope Saint John Paul II urged people to look to Jesus for light, hope, and love. We celebrate the feast day of Pope Saint John Paul II on October 22.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.

