

SESSION 6

What a beautiful spring day!! I hope you are all having a chance to get outside and enjoy it :)

Housekeeping

1. There will be a makeup session for the evening Confirmation session if you missed March 18th on April 8th at 6:30pm. Please let me know if you are planning on attending this session.
2. The last evening Confirmation session will be on April 15th at 6:30pm
3. The half day retreat option is on April 13th beginning at 1:00pm
4. The Confirmation celebration is on Sunday May 5th at 4:30pm OR Monday May 6th at 7:00pm
5. There will be a Confirmation rehearsal on Saturday May 4th at 10:30am
6. I have included all our email sessions in this email for those of you who may have some catching up to do :)
7. If you have not already done so please make sure that we have a copy of your child's baptism certificate-if they were not baptized at OLPH and that we have the name of your child's sponsors.



Enlightened by Christ

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This session explores the presentation of the lighted candle, the third of the four explanatory baptismal rites. The parents, godparents and the entire assembly are reminded that this child has been enlightened by Christ. The parents and godparents are also reminded that they are to keep the candle burning brightly:

Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and godparents

this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly.

These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ.

They are to walk always as children of the light.

May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts.

When the Lord comes,

May they go out to meet him

With all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.



Jesus called himself the Light of the World: *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life”* (John 8:12) The light of Christ always reveals God. Jesus did not stop at calling himself the Light of the World. He told his followers that they too are the light of the world: *“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16)



The Goals of this session are as follows:

1. Understand why a candle is used in the celebration of baptism.
2. Expand our appreciation of the meaning and importance of sharing the light of Christ.
3. Understand the role of confirmation in our lives.

Light is an important part of this session. Make a list of the different kinds of light. (overhead lights, headlights, candles, flashlights, sun, stars, streetlights, computer/phone screens, fire, night lights, matches, glow sticks, dash lights in the car, lighthouses, etc.)

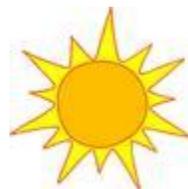
What is your favorite kind of light?

1. What do you like best about it?
2. What feeling does it give you when you are in the presence of that light?

What ways does light help us?

1. It can help us see.
2. Solar Power
3. Elevates mood

The sun is an important source of light. Light from the sun makes it possible for plants and animals to thrive. The energy that we rely on to play, sleep and work comes from the food we eat, which has received its energy from the sun. The energy from the sun is stored inside us and keeps us healthy. We can feel the energy and effects of the sun and how it makes a difference in our lives.



In what ways is God like sunlight in our lives?

1. He helps us thrive as people.
2. He is our spiritual food and drink.
3. He gives us strength and energy.
4. His presence makes a difference in our lives.

To symbolize the Light of Christ our Parish lights a new Easter candle each year with a holy flame. What does a lit flame say to you about God?

- A candle removes darkness and God removes darkness.
- A candle gives warmth and God makes us feel warm.
- At Easter Vigil and at your baptism the Paschal candle lights all the little candles, so God can give light to all people.
- The flame is hot and powerful and God is powerful too.
- The flame can melt or burn things and God can melt things like sadness, fear and sin.



During your baptism a lighted candle was presented to you. Why do you think the church does this?

- The candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.
- The candle is used to light other candles.
- We light candles before we pray or at special times.

At baptism your baptismal candle was lit from the Easter (paschal) candle. Why do you think the Easter candle was used and your candle just not lit directly?

- The Easter candle reminds us of Easter when Jesus rose from the dead.
- Just like Jesus died, we die to sin in baptism.
- Jesus rose from the dead and because we are baptized, we will rise too.
- The candle reminds us that we are joined to Jesus and, like him; we are a light for the world.



The church gives the newly baptized a candle because it is a visible reminder that we have been changed through baptism. After the water bath we are anointed with oil and become part of God's royal family. We also are clothed in Christ-we get a new identity-and then the presentation of the lighted candle tells us that we are to walk as children of the light.

Think about how you get ready for your day and how that compares to baptism getting you ready for life

Daily Routine	Baptism
Shower	Water-wash away sin
Put on lotion	Oil-become part of God's Royal family
Get dressed	White Garment-a new identity in Christ
Meet the World	Lighted Candle-walk as children of the light in our daily lives.



The Church announces that we have been enlightened by Christ. What does it mean to be enlightened?



The Miriam Webster Dictionary defines enlightened as:

1. Freed from ignorance or misinformation
2. Full comprehension of the problems involved
3. Illuminate – to give spiritual knowledge to.

Through baptism we have received the light of Christ and we are able to rely on Christ to show us or help us to know how to live in union with God, to walk as children of the light.

What does it mean to walk as children of the light/to be light for the world?

It means that we need to be kind to others: be kind to that classmate who just doesn't seem to quite fit in.

It means that we help others: share some of my allowance with the St. Vincent de Paul Society,

Help others: shovel my neighbor's driveway, help with child care at the Soup and Bread Lenten Suppers at the Parish.

When we let our light shine, others recognize the goodness and they come to know more about God.

Father Jack's homily on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010 offered us a challenge. On Ash Wednesday we receive the ashes on our forehead. After Mass we go for groceries or to fill the car with gas. People see the smudge on your forehead and they know you are Christian. This was Father Jack's challenge: by the end of the Lenten season, by your actions and behavior make it so people can tell you are Christian without the outward smudge of the ashes to tell them.



In our sessions together we have reflected on what happened to us at baptism. We know we have become part of God's royal family, have a new identity, and have received the light of Christ. The light of Christ shines through our good works so that the world can be a better place, a brighter place.

All the baptized are called to be a light for the world. So remember that we are not alone; we have our family, the people at church, and the whole Christian community to help us to grow and walk as children of the light.

Our families and the parish support us as we strive to be a light for the world. The celebration of confirmation is one way we are strengthened to walk as children of the light. During the celebration of confirmation we pray for the Spirit to help us be a light for the world.

The church uses seven gifts to speak about the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to live as children of the light and to be a light for the world. In previous sessions we have spoken of the gifts of understanding, wisdom, courage, right judgment and reverence.



A sixth gift of the Holy Spirit is knowledge. Knowing something in our heart is deeper or different than knowing it in our mind.

Do you know what the capital of Alberta is?



Edmonton

So, each morning when you wake up in the morning do you yawn and stretch and think to yourself “ahh, the capital of Alberta is Edmonton. That is a good thing. It will make my day so much better knowing this”?

This is knowledge of the mind. It is important but it is not life altering.

Do you know your parents love you?



Yes

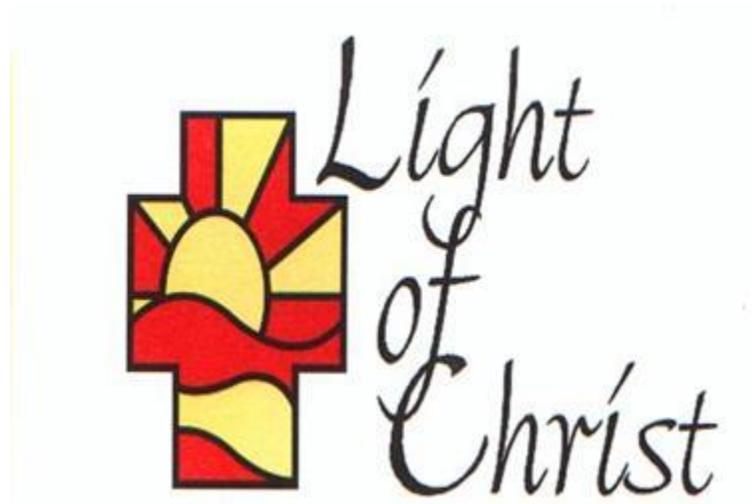
So, each morning when you wake up in the morning do you yawn and stretch and think to yourself “ahh, my parents love me. I am loved. That is a good thing. It will make my day so much better knowing this”?

This is knowledge of the heart. It is deeper and different than knowing with our minds. It is life altering knowledge.

We know in our hearts that God will be with us and that God’s Spirit will guide us to walk as children of the light and to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

Have you ever been camping in a place that is very dark or can you remember a time the electricity went out and you needed to rely on candles or flashlights? It is difficult to see in the dark when we have only one candle or one flashlight for many people. Letting our flame of faith shine for others can be difficult if we are doing it alone. Jesus knew that we would need to be with others. Jesus calls us to live and to share our faith in community. This is just one more reason why we gather for Eucharist on

Sunday. Being with others helps us to keep our flame of faith alive in our hearts so that we can let the light of Christ shine brightly for others.



Please read and complete pages 32-38 in your Alive in the Spirit family book.

Please have a look at lesson four in your Alive in the Spirit books and use the questions below for discussion.

1. Why and how is a candle used in the sacrament of baptism?
2. How can we live as the Light of Christ in our world?
3. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how do they help us in our lives?

At our session we talked about the importance of the lives of the saints as role models for us. We talked briefly about how some of these saints lived a life that was less than saintly before God came into their lives. The following link will take you to an article that talks about this :)

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/saints-theyre-just-like-us/?fbclid=IwAR1AZxSKImWxa49xwbj31Vkj60WdexN1HYCVJi44V0lcM1XkumE1GdtxPI>

We also spoke about the importance of celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation before you are confirmed. Please watch the video about the Prodigal Son

<https://vimeo.com/35595649>

God's love for us is infinite. When we come to the sacrament of reconciliation he is the Father of the Prodigal Son. He rushes out to meet us with love and forgiveness.

You can watch the video below as a bit of a refresher on the sacrament of reconciliation.

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/penance-why-we-confess>

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/confession-101-part-two>

Please find below the opportunities you will have to celebration Reconciliation:

RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

30 minutes prior to each weekday Mass (Mon-Fri 8:00am-8:30am and Tuesday and Thursday 5:45pm-6:15pm)

Every Saturday from 9:15am-11:00am