



# A FAMILY OF *Faith*

## December 2020

### An Interactive Family Guide

*“Then they laid hands on them  
and they received the Holy Spirit.”*

*Acts 8:17*



# Summary Checklist

## December Overview:

- ☐ Read [Lessons 5 \(Español\)](#) before our Adult Session on December 13
- ☐ Watch the video on Confirmation
- ☐ Complete the [Manger Ornament](#) activity, and email [Damellys](#) the affirmations by Dec 20

## Our Catholic Home: Advent Traditions:

- ☐ Follow an [Advent Calendar](#) until the end of the season of Advent
- ☐ Watch the 'Advent in 2 Minutes' Video

## Activity 1: Saint Stephen:

- ☐ Check how fast you can put together our [Saint of the Month](#)
- ☐ Learn more about Stephen's story (Acts 6-7), his martyrdom, and celebrate his feast day on Dec 26

## Activity 2: Family Reflections

- ☐ Think of what gift or fruit of the Holy Spirit your family would especially like to grow in this Advent season
- ☐ Review December's Word to Know

Contact [Damellys](#) if you have any questions.

# December Overview

The prophets of the Old Testament foretold that God's Spirit would rest upon the Messiah to sustain his mission. Their prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was conceived by the Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism by John. Jesus' entire mission occurred in communion with the Spirit. Before he died, Jesus promised that the Spirit would be given to the Apostles and to the entire Church. After his death, he was raised by the Father in the power of the Spirit.

Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.

Reflect on the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit that you see present in each of your family members while completing the [MANGER ORNAMENT](#) activity.

**CONFIRMATION** by Catholic Central



# Our Catholic Home

## Advent Traditions

The four weeks of Advent symbolize the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ.

We set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and [decorate wreaths](#) in our homes to signify Christ's presence coming in the darkness of sin and suffering. Candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. A fifth candle is sometimes placed in the center for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Advent colors are worn by the priests and deacons, decorate the church, and are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath:

**Violet:** royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent)

**Rose:** abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, joy in Latin)

**White:** light and purity (Christ Candle, center candle completes the season and begins Christmas)

Find an [Advent Calendar](#) to guide and prepare you for Christmas!

ADVENT IN 2 MINUTES by Busted Halo



# Activity 1

## Saint Stephen

We learn Saint Stephen's story from scripture in the book of the Acts of the Apostles in chapters 6 and 7:

**"At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So, the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.**

**'Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.'**

**The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.**

**As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them"; and when he said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 6:1-6; 7:59-60)**

**ST. STEPHEN by Catholic Online**





# Activity 2

## Family Reflections

Take some time to use the questions below as a conversation starter for you and your family:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (CCC 1831)

- 1. Think of what gift or fruit of the Holy Spirit your family would especially like to grow in this Advent season.**
- 2. The wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. What special talent or traits would you like to grow in and offer to Jesus?**
- 3. What is Confirmation? And what are its effects?**

## Words to Know

Review and test your knowledge of the words we are focusing on this month to expand our understanding of the lessons.

**VOCABULARY**  
**REVIEW**