

Objective: The students will be able to explain, by use of analogy, how the Holy Spirit is real even though we can't see Him and why it is important to keep our faith safe.

For the Catechist

The ritual by which a newborn baby of faithful parents or a non-baptized adult becomes a member of the Church is often called "christening." In the Eastern Churches, Baptism is followed by Chrismation, the anointing with chrism.

The Chrismation. As the priest puts chrism on the forehead, eyes, nostrils, mouth, ears, breast, hands and feet in the form of a cross, he says, "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen." The sense organs are anointed or sealed in the Holy Spirit. Through the senses children become aware of life. These senses which seem so commonplace are unique gifts of God through which children come to discover and know the world, others, themselves and God. The whole body—the whole being—is anointed and made holy. It is the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit. With their whole body through the senses, children give praise to God.

This Mystery (known in the Western Church as Confirmation) can only be received once. Eastern Christians, having been chrismated at Baptism are not to be "confirmed" at any later age.

Seal of the Holy Spirit. Chrismation is the seal of the gift of the Spirit. "To seal" can mean either to mark, imprint or close up tightly as protection. Both tell us about what it means to be a Christian. A seal of a person or organization on a document attests to its authenticity and origin. The seal on the baptized person is a sign that he or she truly belongs to God. "But the one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). However, this seal is not a mere outward mark; it changes us by the wisdom of the Spirit: "But you have the anointing that comes

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: "All of You"

Introduction: Exploring the concept of "sealing" **Need:** Six pieces of paper (2" x 3")—label four with names of church members, (if you did the group activity for lesson one, you may use these papers); scotch tape, marker, an envelope.

Read Text Aloud: Have students read text aloud.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* New Life in the Church
- *Group:* "Baptism and Chrismation" Mural
- *Craft:* "Sealed" Frame

Closing: "We Have Seen the True Light"

Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:

Packet I: The Descent of the Holy Spirit
Packet II:

Teaching Pic:

#S5 Chrismation

from the holy one, and you all have knowledge" (1 John 2:20). This anointing, which changes us in the depths of our being, is a sign that we belong to God and because of this it is a protection against the Evil One, the devil." I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15).

Through Baptism we have become one with Christ. Then, just as Christ was shown to be filled with the Spirit at His Baptism, so do we, too, by anointing, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and enter the life of the Trinity. Chrismation is our personal Pentecost. Through Chrismation we are filled with the Spirit, and we are made temples of God.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

The Spirit and seeing with new eyes

"Perhaps nothing sets a believer apart from others more obviously than the way he or she looks at life and the world. All creation becomes an act of revelation to the person with eyes of faith. If we have the eyes to see, we can learn something of God from His works which, after all, carry His divine energy outside of Himself and into the realm of our experience. And so a consequence of revelation is that those who have experienced God's saving presence in their lives acquire 'new eyes' and see His love everywhere" (*WEF* 21).

"The Fathers speak of these new eyes as a gift of the Holy Spirit to the believer. He who reveals all things also opens the eyes of the believer to see what was there all along, but unperceived—the presence of God upholding all things. St. Simeon the New Theologian expresses this most clearly:

*'God gives men the same certitude that He gave to the apostles, thanks to His sending and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. They are more perfectly enlightened and through this light, they learn how God is unspeakable and inexpressible, uncreated and eternal, without end and incomprehensible. In fact, all knowledge and all discernment, every word of wisdom and every word of a more mystical knowledge and also the power of miracles and the gift of prophecy, different languages and their interpretation, the protection and ruling of cities and of peoples, the discernment of future things and the acquisition of the kingdom of heaven, the adoption by God and the very fact of putting on Christ, of knowing the mysteries of Christ, of knowing the mysteries of God's economy of salvation in our regard: in a word, all that unbelievers fail to know and that we, after we receive the grace of faith, can know, think and say—all this comes uniquely from the teaching of the Spirit (Theological Treatise)'" (*WEF* 21-22).*

Anointing of sense organs

"While those giants of our spiritual tradition, the saints, live this life of the Spirit and know this illumination to a greater degree, all believers may experience this renewal of their senses in an occasional way to the degree that they have accepted God's self-disclosure and opened themselves to Him in return. This is what we symbolize in the mystery of Chrismation when all our sense organs are anointed so that with our whole being we may learn to perceive the presence of God. People who have allowed this anointing to penetrate them fully awaken to the presence of God among us in new and enriching ways " (*WEF* 22).

Chrismation Follows Baptism

"The rite of initiation is actually a twofold mystery: baptism 'in water and the Holy Spirit' (Jn 3:5). We die to sin in Christ that we might rise to life in Him, but we are also 'sealed by the Holy Spirit.' Through Christ we also receive the Holy Spirit, who seals our baptismal initiation. Just as the feast of Pentecost completes the Paschal feast, and as the descent of the Holy Spirit completes the commissioning of the disciples, so our chrismation, our reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit, completes our baptism" (LLII 77).

Chrism

"At His baptism in the Jordan River, Christ was revealed as the Messiah (in Greek, *Christos* or 'Anointed One') by the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. At our baptism, we are anointed with holy chrism, olive oil impregnated with many fragrances to symbolize the manifold gifts of the Spirit, and called by St. Cyril of Jerusalem the 'antitype of the Holy Spirit.' This chrism is solemnly consecrated by the primate or the local bishop following the anaphora in the Liturgy of Holy Thursday. Initially the bishop, as head of the local Church, celebrated the initiation of every adult. This relationship with the bishop is preserved by reserving the consecration of chrism to the head of the Church" (LLII 77).

Seal of the Holy Spirit

"The priest anoints the person's forehead, eyes, nostrils, mouth, ears, chest (heart), hands and feet with the words, 'The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit!' This indicates that we are indeed 'Christians,' 'anointed ones' together with our Lord. This sealing expresses the mystery of our election and salvation by God, for 'in him you too were chosen; when you heard the glad tidings of salvation, the word of truth and believed in it, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit who had been promised' (Eph 1:13). This new relationship with God and with the Church carries the responsibility of faithfulness to the truth: 'As his anointing teaches you about all things and is true—free from any lie—remain in him as that anointing taught you' (1 Jn 2:27)" (LLII 79).

Scriptural foundation

"The model for the rite of baptism and chrismation is found in the Gospel accounts of our Lord's baptism. We imitate Jesus by our baptism in water and our anointing with holy chrism. Just as the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to be the 'Christ' after His baptism, we are revealed to be 'Christians' by our chrismation following our baptism. Only by this gift can we truly respond in faith and call God our Father. Only the presence of the Holy Spirit within us can lead us to discern God's presence and to respond to that presence. Chrismation fills us with the power of the Spirit to do what is right and to repel evil" (LLII 79).

Eucharist

"Our baptism into the life of the Trinity is completed only when we join in the Eucharistic communion with the rest of the Body of Christ. Baptism gives us entrance into the life of Christ; Holy Communion makes that membership full and perfect: 'if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you' (Jn 6:53). Each reception of Communion is a renewal of our baptism, showing our faith and hope in Christ by recommitting ourselves to the true and holy. We are then able to sing, 'Keep us in sanctification that we may sing Your glory, meditating on Your righteousness all the day'" (LLII 79).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Let's gather together and pray our opening prayer for this unit, "All You Who Have Been Baptized"

Introduction

Last week we learned about the Mystery of Baptism. Today we'll learn about the Mystery of Chrismation.

Baptism used water. Chrismation uses a special oil called chrism, which is blessed by the patriarch or bishop. [Stand before the class. With your thumb trace a cross as the priest would with chrism on the child where the anointings are done.] I'd like to show you what happens. The priest anoints the person with chrism on the forehead, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, back, chest, and feet while saying, "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit." This happens right after Baptism. It seals the Baptism the person has received.

Seal. This is a curious word. How do we use the word seal? (To seal an envelope, sealing a wooden deck from the weather) There are two meanings for seal, and they are not that different. [Ask for another volunteer; have them write their name on a piece of paper.] If we don't want ink to come off something like this paper, we can "seal" it with scotch tape. It protects the name from being erased. [Have child place the tape on the name; show it to the class.] Sealing protects something. Some seals are temporary. Others are permanent. The Holy Spirit is permanent. The Holy Spirit will never leave us.

If we want to send a letter of several pages in the mail, we place it in an envelope, and what do we do? (Seal the envelope.) Sealing keeps what is inside safe. [Place papers with names of church members inside. Have child seal the envelope.]

When we are chrismated, the priest uses chrism to show that we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. What happens in Chrismation? We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.

Let's read about it.

I Am Chrismated

When you were baptized, you also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is called Chrismation. You received the name "Christian." You also received the name of a Saint.

For Chrismation a special oil is used. It is called "chrism." When Father anointed you, he said, "The seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit." Father anoints us so that the Holy Spirit will keep our faith safe.

It is important to keep safe what you treasure. It is the reason why we can live forever united to God. Do you treasure your faith? It is your most important possession.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

You also received the name of a Saint.

When did you receive the Holy Spirit? (Right after Baptism.) What name did you receive that we all share? (Christian) Does anyone know why you received the name of a Saint? [Allow responses.] Saints lived very close to God. They said "Yes" to God every moment. We want to have the name of a Saint to be our example. We can also pray to our Saint for help.

Father anoints us so that the Holy Spirit will keep our faith safe.

What is the name of the oil used by the priest? (Chrism) Who blesses the chrism? (The bishop or patriarch)

It is your most important possession.

Why do we say that our faith is our most important possession? [Allow responses.] (It is our way to be united to God now and forever.) Can you imagine not having faith—not knowing the Good News that Jesus died and rose so we could live forever with God? How might you think or act differently if you didn't have your Christian faith? [Allow responses.] How do we work to keep our faith safe? Think about ways that you stay close to God. (Go to church, pray, read the Bible)

We are sealed in our new life with the Holy spirit.

Let's point to all the parts of our body that Father anoints in Chrismation. [Point as you speak:] our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, chest, back, hands and feet. Every part of us is dedicated to God. With Chrismation we were made full members of the Church. The Holy Spirit gave us new life in the Church. We call the Holy Spirit the Giver of Life. What happens at Chrismation? (We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.) Let's all say that together: We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.



Father used chrism that has been blessed by the patriarch or bishop. Father anointed your eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. He anointed your chest, back, hands, and feet.

He prayed that every part of you would be always close to God. You received life in the Church from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Life. We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.

We say that we have received the Holy Spirit.

We can't see the Holy Spirit. We can't see love or bravery either, but we know they are real. We know the Holy Spirit is real by the love in our hearts. We know the Holy Spirit is real when we feel close to God.



The people formed more Churches.

The Holy Spirit leads us to do the right thing.

How do you know when the Holy Spirit is real? (When you love, ask forgiveness, do the right thing)

The Holy Spirit will never leave you.

What do you think of when you think of comforter? [Allow responses.] The Holy Spirit gives us great comfort and peace. Whenever we are afraid, we can pray to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit keeps us close to God. Whenever we have been hurt and need to forgive, we can pray to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help us forgive as Jesus taught us. Sometimes we need to ask forgiveness. This can be hard. The Holy Spirit will touch our hearts and help us to ask forgiveness. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit will never leave us. Let's say together, "The Holy Spirit will never leave me."

By our words and actions we can lead others to God.

What kind of words and actions could lead others to God? [Allow responses.]

Let's review: *We learned today that the Holy Spirit is very real, but we can't see Him. We used some comparisons. Can you name something else that is real that we can't see? (Air, courage, love) Why is it important to keep our faith safe? (It is the reason why we can be united to God now and forever.) What happens at Chrismation? (We are sealed in our new life with the Holy Spirit.) Will the Holy Spirit ever leave you? (No)*

Activity Tracks

Basic: New Life in the Church

Here is a worksheet to review what we learned about becoming members of God's people. [Have students work in groups or as a class if this seems difficult. Check their answers often so they don't have too much to erase.] Let's read the phrase at the bottom. Where have you heard this? (In the Divine Liturgy)

We know the Holy Spirit is real when we do something we need to do that is difficult. Asking forgiveness is good but difficult. The Holy Spirit helps us. The Holy Spirit leads us to do the right thing.



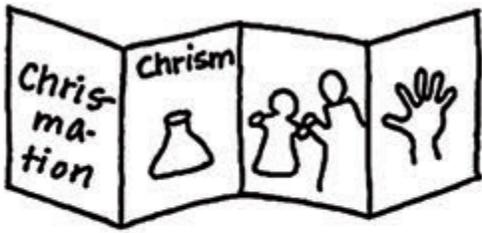
The Holy Spirit is also called the Comforter. You can pray to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never leave you.

The Holy Spirit keeps us close to God. When we are close to God, we can do God's work. By our words and actions, we can lead others to God.

42

New Life in the Church
Unscramble the words to make a correct sentence

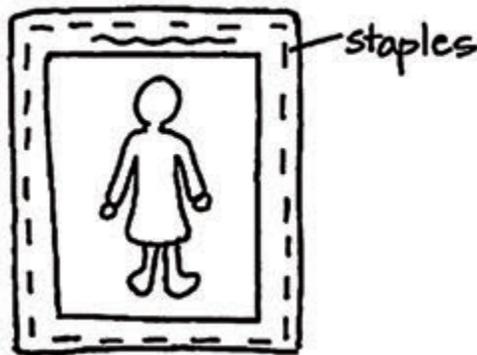
- be is Christian wonderful a to it.
It is wonderful to be a Christian
- In born was I again Baptism.
In Baptism I was born again!
- received Baptism in white I robe a
In Baptism I received a white robe.
- Baptism I after Chrismation received.
I received Chrismation after Baptism.
- Chrismation sealed I Spirit with Holy was the In.
In Chrismation I was sealed with the Holy Spirit
- life new us Spirit Church in Holy the The gave.
The Holy Spirit gave us new life in the Church



Group: "Baptism and Chrismation Mural" (Continued)

Materials: small poster boards cut in half, markers, tape

Today we'll finish our mural of the Mysteries of Initiation. Today we studied the Mystery of Chrismation. This will be the subject for our drawings today. Let's review what we can draw today. [Allow students to look back at text for ideas. Here are some: 1) the name of a Saint, 2) chrism, 3) Father anointing, 3) the anointed areas: hands, feet, eyes. Make sure the words Baptism and Chrismation appear somewhere on the mural.]



Craft: "Sealed" Frame

Materials: "I Am Sealed" worksheet copied onto heavier paper, plastic wrap, markers, stapler, scissors

[Have sample ready to show] When we were chrismated, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit. We were sealed with an oil called chrism. Oil is like lotion. When you put on lotion, it seals and protects your skin from drying out. Sealing protects and preserves. Here's another example. When someone puts food into the refrigerator, it is usually sealed either in a plastic container or with plastic wrap. The plastic keeps the moisture in so the food doesn't dry out. The plastic seals the food. To help us remember that we were sealed with the Holy Spirit, we'll do a project that will seal a picture of us. On your worksheet is a drawing of a person. The person is nobody right now and waiting to become you. Put clothes on the person and draw a face and hair. When you're done, we'll place plastic wrap over the picture and a frame on top. The title on the frame is "I Am Sealed by the Holy Spirit."

Closing: *When we are in God's kingdom, we have truly seen the light. Let's sing or pray our closing prayer, "We Have Seen the True Light."*

I Am Sealed by the Holy Spirit

