

January 13, 2019

Baptism of the Lord

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Isaiah 42:1–2, 4, 6–7  
Psalm 29:3abde–4, 3cde, 9ef–10  
Acts 10:34–38  
Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

Jesus Is Baptized

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Blessed be the LORD, who has heard the sound of my pleading. The LORD is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts. I am helped, so my heart rejoices; with my song I praise him. LORD, you are a strength for your people, the saving refuge of your anointed. (Psalm 28:6–8)

## Scripture Background

In our Christian life, receiving the Sacrament of Baptism is but a first step, a planting of the seeds of faith and mission. In the life of Christ, however, being baptized by John was a culmination of sorts. Jesus was confirmed in the sight of all as the beloved Son of God. The heavens opened, signifying an important revelation; the voice of God thundered, revealing Jesus as divine; and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, anointing him for his mission. All his encounters, healings, and teachings that followed were partial fulfillments of his mission. Ultimately his suffering, Death, and Resurrection completed his work of salvation, for these actions finally and definitively freed us from our sins and opened wide for us the gates of Heaven.

Today we cannot talk about our Baptism, whether it occurs in childhood or adulthood, without talking about our mission. When we are baptized, we are immersed in the waters of divine favor that join us to Christ and the Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to spend our entire lives in continuing his work on Earth. Following in his footsteps, we, too,

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ an evergreen branch
- ▶ a glass bowl of holy water

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "One Family" (Seeds CD-1, Track #12) or "The Baptism of Jesus" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #16)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

will walk the Way of the Cross; but we, too, will triumph in glory.

As Isaiah says in today's First Reading, the people called to be God's own are richly blessed. They are called by name and protected from every kind of harm. Whether they pass through raging fires or deep waters, God walks with them and assures them every step of the way: "To me, you are very dear, and I love you" (43:4).

## Children's Connections

While most of the children in your assembly will have been baptized as infants, you should be aware of the fact that there might be some who are not yet baptized. Therefore, in explaining the meaning of Baptism, it will be important to be sensitive to this.

We are baptized in Christ. This means that we become part of the family of God and members of the Church. Through our Baptism we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. But those gifts are not just for us, they are to be used to help others. Just as Jesus came to forgive, to heal, and to teach all the nations, we, too, are to do good in his name. We are baptized in order to treat people in the same loving way that Jesus did. Children will have no trouble understanding this concept.

You might want to illustrate this point by offering examples of the manner in which children can carry out the mission of Jesus. When there is an argument and they feel hurt, they can try to forgive the person who hurt them. Alone this is almost impossible, but with the Holy Spirit's help we can forgive. When a friend asks why they go to church, children are capable of talking about their love for Jesus and the need to give him praise and thanks at the weekly liturgy.

You might also want to spend some time talking about love on a larger scale. Part of the mission of Jesus was to bring justice into the world. Where there is war, we can work and pray for peace. When people are left out because of the way they look or act, we can include them. When people we don't even know are sick or alone, we can visit them. Loving gestures extended to friend and stranger alike are ways we can continue the mission of Jesus in today's world.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on the Sacrament of Baptism

- "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit ... and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons [and daughters] of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission ...." (#1213)
- "Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to baptism by Saint John, intended for sinners, in order to 'fulfill all righteousness.' Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying." (#1224)
- "In his Passover Christ opened to all ... the fountain of Baptism." (#1225)
- "Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop." (#1253)

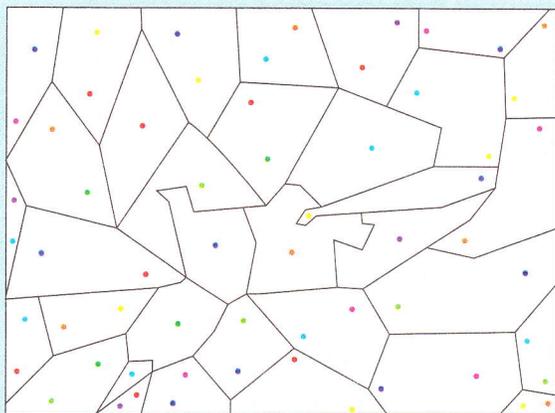
### The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children think about the difference between wants and needs.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

This week, children will learn about Jesus' baptism and what that meant for him. Children will enjoy hearing stories about and seeing pictures from their own baptisms. Parents can also talk about what being baptized means for them.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

As the children gather, provide appropriate live or recorded music. When all the children have been seated, light the candle, and explain that today there is a special ritual.

**Leader:** To remind us of Jesus' baptism and our own, I will sprinkle blessed water on each of you. This water is used for baptizing new members of our Church. To show your faith in your own Baptism, please make the Sign of the Cross as you are sprinkled.

*Dip the branch in the holy water, walk around, and sprinkle the children.*

### Collect

**Leader:** Invite the children to lift their hands, and pray, repeating each line after you. Then pray:

Jesus, as we celebrate your baptism today.

**Children:** Jesus, as we celebrate your baptism,

**Leader:** Open our hearts.

**Children:** Open our hearts.

**Leader:** To hear your word. Amen.

**Children:** To hear your word. Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

## First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, we hear the promises God made to his people long ago in the Holy Land. Listen carefully because they are promises God also makes to us.

*Read Isaiah 42:1–2, 4, 6–7.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Children:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 29:3abde–4, 3cde, 9ef–10.*

## Second Reading

**Leader:** In the First Reading, we learned about God's promises to his people. Today's Second Reading tells us how God sent Jesus to his people as a fulfillment of his promises.

*Read Acts 10:34–38.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Today's Gospel tells the story of the baptism of Jesus. Listen carefully to what John the Baptist says about him, then what a voice from Heaven says.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Luke 3:15–16, 21–22.* Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Ask the children to be seated.*

## Homily

Ask the children to describe what happened in the Gospel. You may have to prompt them with a few reminders. When they talk about the Holy Spirit coming as a dove to rest over Jesus, tell them that the Holy Spirit also comes to us when we are baptized. The Holy Spirit is important because through the Spirit we receive gifts to help others. Invite the children to tell some of the ways they have helped others. Summarize their responses.

Talk about the words God spoke when Jesus was baptized. Explain that this was important because this revealed to all people that Jesus was God's Son. In a similar way, when we are baptized at a parish Mass, we are introduced to all the people of God as new members of God's family. Usually the baptizing priest invites the parish to respond with applause.

Point out that the First Reading reminds us that belonging to God's family makes us blessed. Even when life becomes hard for us, and we feel as if we are drowning in deep waters or burning up in fiery flames, God stays with us and strengthens us. And in the end he will rescue us from our troubles and take us home to himself, just as he raised Jesus from the dead and took him home to Heaven.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith. Answer each prayer question with the words, "Yes, I believe." Do you believe in God the Father, who sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and death?

**Children:** Yes, I believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Son, the Lord Jesus whose true identity was revealed on the day he was baptized?

**Children:** Yes, I believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who came down on Jesus in the form of a dove on the day he was baptized?

**Children:** Yes, I believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Let us lift our hands in prayer as we go to our Father with all our needs. To each petition, please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."



That the Holy Spirit will inspire all Church leaders to live as Jesus lived, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** That all world leaders will be strengthened by God to do their duties for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** That all our families will work together to complete the work of Jesus in our world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Loving God, through Christ our Lord you have made us members of your own household. Help us to treat one another with the same love and care that Jesus showed us when he came to live among us. This we ask in Jesus' name.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.