

Family Faith

Chapter 13

A New Life

We become children of God when we are baptized.

Chapter Summary

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. The fatherhood of God is expressed beautifully in the baptism of Our Lord as the Father announces that Jesus is God's *Son*. When we are baptized, our souls are filled with the Holy Spirit and we become children of God. There are several sacramental signs associated with Baptism that reveal what God is doing through the grace of Baptism. Water signifies the cleansing of sin and the newness of life in Christ received in Baptism. The white garment is a sign of the purity of our souls and a reminder to keep our souls free from the stain of sin as we live the Christian life. The anointing with sacred chrism signifies that we now belong to Christ and are called to share in his mission.

More for Parents

As parents, we are always making decisions for our children—what they eat, where they go to school, etc.—but the most important decision we make for them is to have them baptized. When we chose to have our children baptized, we gave them the most important gift we could. We gave them a relationship with God as their Father, and we allowed the life of Jesus to enter their souls. How can parents best help their children appreciate this gift? The answer is really not difficult at all: make God an everyday part of your family life. From the earliest age, we make sure our children know their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members by telling stories of them, seeing them as often as we can, and having their pictures around our home. Helping our children to know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit as their teacher and guide can be done through religious images in the home, family prayer, weekly Mass, and telling the children how much God means to you. What story can you tell them of how God has made a difference in your life?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear Jesus, you became a child like us so that you can show us the way to Heaven. Help us listen to you so that we can be with you forever. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **Who baptized Jesus?** (*John the Baptist.*)
- **Who comes to live in our souls at Baptism?** (*The Holy Spirit.*)
- **Who gives us the gift of grace?** (*God.*)
- **What do we become when we are baptized?** (*Children of God.*)
- **When we are baptized, we become a part of God's family called the Catholic _____.** (*Church.*)
- **In Baptism, what is the symbol of being washed clean?** (*Water.*)
- **In Baptism, what is the symbol of the light of Christ?** (*A candle.*)
- **In Baptism, what do we wear that is a symbol of being clean and pure?** (*A white garment.*)
- **In Baptism, what are we anointed with to show that we are children of God?** (*Sacred chrism [holy oil].*)

Let's Live Our Faith

Discuss how your family can live as children of God in the following ways: saying sorry for hurting others and for not obeying, always telling the truth, and praying together as a family.

Family Faith Activities

Do the following as a family:

Look up the Baptism day of everyone in the family. Mark it on the calendar and celebrate it as your spiritual birthday. Your children received the supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and charity when they were baptized. As parents, we should always nurture these virtues in our children. Begin today and nurture forever!

- **Faith**—Believing. Read a children's Bible and age appropriate lives of the saints books to your children.
- **Hope**—Hope for eternal life. Talk about how Jesus made it possible for you to be in Heaven one day! Be sure you go to Mass as a family on Sundays and regularly receive the sacraments.
- **Charity**—To love as God loves. Show your children what self-giving love is by doing something kind for them. Ask your children to do an act of self-giving love, by doing something kind for one another.

Small Wonders



Pinnetti has a problem, and Manifold does something special to fix it.

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