

Family Page

Background Reflection

We are drawn to, attracted by, and even fascinated with water. Whether it is a gurgling stream, a placid lake, or a mighty ocean, we want to be near it and even in it. Water also fulfills a physical human need that ensures our very survival. Simply put, water gives life.

Just as water gives us physical life, the waters of Baptism give us spiritual life and eternal life. The waters of Baptism invite us into community with God through his Son, Jesus Christ and with one another as the people called by God to bring his love into the world. This community is the Church. Just as water cleanses dirt from our bodies, the blessed waters of Baptism cleanse us from sin and bring us God's forgiveness.

"Come, everyone who is thirsty—here is water!" proclaims the prophet Isaiah (55:1). This is the message of this lesson. Come to the Sacrament of Baptism. Explore the depths of our human need for water, for life, for God.

Family Activities

- Show your child items from his or her baptismal day. These might include pictures, white clothing, and the baptismal candle. Share your memories of that special day. Mark the date of your child's Baptism on the family calendar. Make plans to celebrate this day of beginning new life with God in the Catholic Church.
- Watch the video "Catholic Baby Baptism" (YouTube, 9:17) together. Begin at the 3:30 point to show the entire Baptism. Point out the anointing with oil, the pouring of water, the white garment, and the baptismal candle. Allow the video to bring back memories of your child's Baptism, and share those memories aloud.
- Read together the Featured Story on pages 1452–1453 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 3:13–17). Invite your child to tell you what she or he remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

People of Faith

Saint John the Baptist (first century)

Saint John was Jesus' cousin. He prepared the way for Jesus. He told people to change their hearts and turn away from sin. John baptized Jesus and heard God the Father say that Jesus is his beloved Son. We celebrate the birthday of Saint John the Baptist on June 24.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear God, thank you for the gift of this child who is such a blessing to our family. Guide and bless _____ every day as she or he learns more and more about our Catholic faith. Help us always to remember that we are your children and you are our loving Father. Amen.

