

The Gathering Guide



Baptism Edition

January 3, 2020

Parents,

Welcome to the second edition of The Gathering Guide! I hope you enjoyed your first at home family guide. These Gathering Guides will be mailed out monthly for families to complete, be on the lookout for the next guide mid-February!

The second mailing is our “Baptism Edition.” In Mathew 3:13-17 we learn about the baptism of Jesus from John the Baptist in the Jordan River, which is celebrated the Sunday after Epiphany. In this Gathering Guide, I have included a coloring page for the elementary age youth, a bible activity for the middle and high school age youth and an activity and prayer service to be completed as a family. These activities can all be completed on the same day or they can be broken up over several days whatever fits your families needs.

As we look into Jesus’s baptism, It is a great time to reflect upon our own baptisms. We are reminded of our Baptism each time we enter the church for mass and we bless ourselves with the holy water (except now during Covid). I encourage you to talk to your family about baptism with the aid of this guide, pull out pictures, light your child’s baptismal candle, bless each other with holy water, whatever you want to make it interesting and fun for your child. As the first Sacrament we receive, it leaves a permanent spiritual mark on the soul and removes all original sin.

As Jesus’ baptism concludes the Christmas Season, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great beginning to the new year.

Blessings!

Jill Frakes DRE

Parent Page

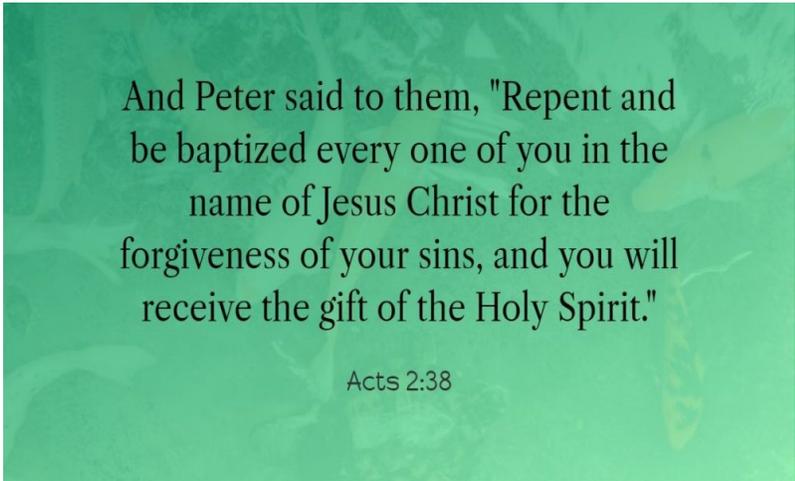
What does the Grace of Baptism accomplish?

Baptism does five things specifically.

1. It forgives all sins that may have been committed prior to a person's baptism including original sin, mortal sins, and venial sins, and it relieves the punishment for those sins.

2. It makes the newly baptized person "a new creature."

3. It turns the person into a newly adopted son of God and a member of Christ body. Baptism incorporates a person into the Church, which is the body of Christ.



And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

4. It brings someone into the flock of the faithful and brings them to share in the royal priesthood of Christ (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Catholic baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers and it also brings about the sacramental bond of the unity of Christians. Paragraph 1271 of the Catechism says it best: Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church: "For men who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in some, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church. Justified by faith in Baptism, [they] are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as brothers by the children of the Catholic Church. Baptism therefore constitutes the sacramental bond of unity existing among all who through it are reborn."

5. Last, but certainly not least, baptism leaves an indelible spiritual mark (character) of belonging to Christ on the soul. Nothing you can do will take away this mark even if you sin a million times. Those sins may prevent you from being open to the salvation God offers through baptism, but you will always carry the mark of a Christian on your soul, therefore making re-baptism impossible.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD ENDS CHRISTMAS SEASON JANUARY 10TH, 2021

Father, in Baptism we become a part of your Church, are washed clean of all sin, and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are given grace and are known by all as your sons and daughters.

Forever marked with the Sign of the Cross, we are yours always.

Help us, Lord, to live out our Baptism in the world.

Amen.

*To celebrate the Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after Epiphany), share pictures and keepsakes of your children's baptisms with them.

Here are some questions the children can ask their parents, godparents, or grand parents to know more about their baptism.

1. Why was I baptized? Why did you (my parents, family, godparents) see this as something important to do?
2. What does Baptism in general mean to you?
3. Who was present at my Baptism?
4. How were my godparents chosen?
5. What was most memorable to you about my Baptism?



Family Prayer Time

After you complete the family activity, I encourage you to renew your Baptismal vows as a family. This is a family service that is directed by one of the parents. If you have holy water in your home you can sprinkle each other with it as a blessing.

Choose a reader and instruct all other family members to say “I do” after each line, with the last being “Amen.”

V. Do you reject Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?

R. I do.

V. And all his empty promises?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

R. I do.

V. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

R. I do.

V. God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

R. Amen.





John the Baptist and Jesus

"After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'" —Matthew 3:16-17



Have your middle school and high youth note similarities and differences from the four Gospel stories of the accounts of Jesus' Baptism. For example, John's Gospel never clearly mentions that it was John the Baptist who baptized Jesus.

	Mt 3:13-17	Mk 1:9-11	Lk 3:21-22	Jn 1:29-34
Who sees the sky opened?				
Who sees the dove descending?				
Who hears the voice of the Father?				

