

**National Catholic  
Partnership on Disability**  
Alianza Nacional Católica  
sobre la Discapacidad

**Adapted Faith Formation Lessons  
for January**

**The Baptism of Jesus**

Council on Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

# Family Faith Formation



“The witness of Christian life given by parents in the family comes to children with tenderness and parental respect. Children thus perceive and joyously live the closeness of God and of Jesus made manifest by their parents in such a way that the first Christian experience frequently leaves decisive traces which last throughout life.”

–General Directory for Catechesis #226



# Four Keys for Practicing Faith

- **Caring Conversations**
- **Family Devotions and Prayer**
- **Family Rituals and Traditions**
- **Family Service**

<https://2nix922u0v5c1unycf149lry-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/four-keys-for-practicing-the-faith-printout.pdf>



# Caring Conversations

## *Remembering Our Baptism*

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. The catechumen or the godparent is asked: "What do you ask of God's Church?" The response is: "Faith!"

-Catechism of the Catholic Church ([https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm))

As a family, recall memories of the Baptisms of loved ones. You may choose to use the following activity to guide your discussion.

When were you baptized?

Who are your Godparents?

Who was the priest or deacon who baptized you?

Which church were you baptized in?

Who else was there?

What do you see?

What happened?

What was said?

At the end of your discussion, one family member may say - "What do you ask of God's Church?".

Family members may respond - "Faith!"



# Family Devotions and Prayer

## *Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

For all the baptized, children or adults, faith must grow after Baptism. For this reason, the Church celebrates each year at the Easter Vigil the renewal of baptismal promises. Preparation for Baptism leads only to the threshold of new life. Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church ([https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm))

Although the renewal of baptismal promises takes place during the Easter Vigil, individuals are welcome to renew their promises throughout the year. During the month of January, in honor of Jesus' baptism, the family can participate in a renewal prayer service at home.

Family members may decide to choose one person to lead the following prayer while other family members say the response.



Leader - Do you reject Satan?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - And all his works?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - And all his empty promises?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - 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?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - 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?

Response - **I do.**

Leader - 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.

Response - **Amen.**

At the conclusion of the prayer, family members may bless themselves with Holy Water.



### ***Response Option:***

- If a family member has difficulty saying “I do”, he can communicate his response by nodding his head in agreement or giving a “thumbs up”.
- The family member can also eye gaze, hold up, or point to the following cards to indicate his response.



**I do.**



**Amen.**

# Family Ritual and Tradition

## *Grace Before Meals and Bedtime Prayers*

Your family may typically say grace before meals or prayers at bedtime. If not, perhaps this is a ritual that you may choose to incorporate into your lives.

During the month of January, consider substituting a Gospel reading of Jesus' Baptism for grace before meals or bedtime prayers. Following are some of the verses that you may want to use.

Activity Extension -Family members may choose to color the picture of Jesus being baptized by John. Loved ones can hold onto or point to the picture during the Gospel readings.



### ***Matthew 3:13-17***

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

### ***Mark 1:9-11***

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”



### ***Luke 3:21-22***

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

### ***John 1: 29-34***

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God,\* who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.” John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.’”





## Family Service – A Gift from God

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift. . . .We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church ([https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm))

Your family may choose to create Baptism gift bags as a service activity this month. The decorated bags can be given to your church to distribute to individuals who are baptized during the year. The bags will be a reminder that the Sacrament of Baptism is a gift from God.

Directions:

- Color/decorate the Baptism items on the following pages.
- Attach the items to the outside of a small gift bag.
- Cut out the explanations of the items and place inside the bag.
- Place a prayer card inside the bag.

Options:

- Include a hand written note for the newly baptized individual.
- Decorate the outside of the bag with other symbols of Baptism.



## Explanation of Baptism Items - cut out and place inside the gift bag

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/christian-initiation-of-adults>

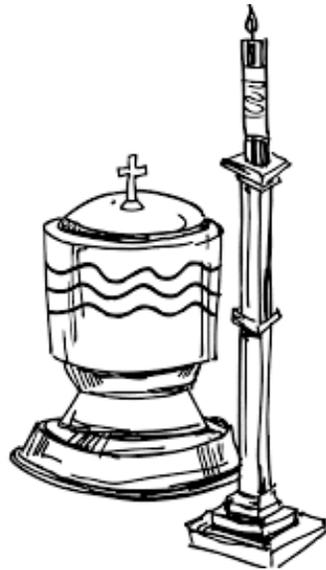
A small candle is lit from the Easter candle and given to the newly baptized as a reminder to them always to walk as children of the Light and to be the light of Christ to the world.

The Sacred Chrism, or oil, is a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to the newly baptized. It is also a sign of the close link between the mission of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who comes to the recipient with the Father in Baptism.

The newly baptized are dressed in a white garment after baptism to symbolize that they are washed clean of sin and that they are called to continue to walk in this newness of life.



**Baptism Items – color and decorate outside of the gift bag**



Design online at :  
[www.harboarts.com/shirtdesigner](http://www.harboarts.com/shirtdesigner)

## Prayer Card – cut out a prayer and place inside the gift bag

(<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/baptism>)

May God, who has been your shepherd  
from birth until now, keep you.

R/. Amen.

The Lord said to Jeremiah:  
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you.

May God, in whose presence our  
ancestors walked, bless you.

R/. Amen.

O God, we give you thanks for N., whom  
you have welcomed into our family.  
Bless this family.  
Confirm a lively sense of your presence with us, and  
grant us patience and wisdom,  
that our lives may show forth the love of Christ, as we  
bring N. up to love all that is good.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

God, our Creator, cherish this child.  
Jesus, our Savior; protect him/her.  
Holy Spirit, our comforter, strengthen him/her.

R/. Amen.



## Prayer Cards, continued

Source of all blessings, protector of infants,  
look with favor on this child, N.

Hold him/her gently in your hands.  
When he/she is reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
bring him/her into the Church,  
there to share in your kingdom and  
with us to bless your name forever.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

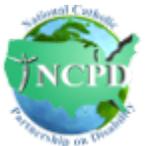
R/. Amen

N., may the Lord Jesus, who loved children,  
bless you and keep you in his love,  
now and forever.

R/. Amen

May God, who saves you from all harm,  
give you peace.

R/. Amen.



## USCCB Scripture Resources

Daily Readings:

[English](#)

[Daily Readings Audio](#)

[Video Reflection](#)

Click on the links above to reflect on Scripture by reading, listening or viewing the reading.



# National Catholic Partnership on Disability

## Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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For more information, please visit: [The National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)  
[NCPD Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

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to grow our faith by [clicking here!](#)

