

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 22 BAPTISM

Objectives

- Identify how Baptism brings one closer to God.
- Explore the effects of Baptism.
- Identify the signs and actions of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), page 132

Invite your child to share stories, TV shows, movies, or experiences from his or her own life in which a person was welcomed with a celebration.

Remind your child that the Church welcomes new members in the Sacrament of **Baptism**; note the chapter title on page 132. Then pray aloud the opening **Prayer**. Encourage your child to respond, “Amen!”

Read the story of **Danny’s Baptism** found on page 132. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help your child understand the term *godparents*.

Remind your child that a deacon is a minister of the Church who performs certain duties in the name of Jesus, such as celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism. Ask: When did the deacon call on the Holy Trinity during Danny’s Baptism? (when he baptized Danny in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit)

Have your child look carefully at the photograph on page 132. Then ask the caption question. Let your child respond. Ask: What question about your own Baptism would you like to ask? (Answer your child’s question as best you can, showing photographs of his or her Baptism, if possible.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 133–135

Read aloud the remainder of **Danny’s Baptism**, found on page 133. Point out that both boy and girl babies usually wear special white clothes at his or her Baptism.

Read aloud **Welcome to the Family**. As you read the text, point out to your child the comparison between families and the Church. Ask: How is being baptized like being born or adopted into a family? (In Baptism we become members of the Church family.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Explain to your child that as part of the Church, we become part of one another's lives as well as one with Jesus.

Have your child look carefully at the picture on page 133 of the adult woman being baptized. Then read the caption. Ask: To whom do we belong through Baptism? (Jesus) Explain that Baptism changes a person's relationship with Jesus and with the Church forever. Therefore, once Baptism is celebrated, it never needs to be repeated.

Read aloud **Following Jesus** on page 134. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the term *ordained*. Ask: Who are the ordained people in our parish? (Help your child name the pastor, any other parish priests, and deacons.)

Remind your child that laypeople are all the members of the Church who have not been ordained. Ask: What gifts do you have to share with our Church family? (The children might name musical or artistic gifts as well as special social skills.)

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide** on page 134. Ask your child to share how he or she can help do the work of Jesus. (Encourage your child to name practical ways to exercise his or her baptismal ministry, such as by helping and forgiving others, and by praying.)

Have our child look carefully at the photographs on page 134. Ask: How are the priest and the child both doing the work of Jesus? (The priest and child are visiting people who are sick.)

Provide your child with drawing paper and crayons and explain the **Activity**. Hang your child's completed drawing in a place where the entire family can enjoy it.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph on page 135. Before reading the chart, **We Celebrate Baptism**, have available the following items for your child to see and touch: water in a small, clear bowl or pitcher, olive or vegetable oil in a small dish, a white cloth or small towel, and a white candle. As you read each section of the chart, allow your child to see or touch the sign of Baptism that is being described. For the "making promises" section, mention one of the promises as an example, such as "Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?" "I do."

Explain that the word *avoid* means "to stay away from," and the word *anointing* means "rubbing with oil." Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to help clarify the meaning of *chrism*.

To clarify the idea of a seal, you may wish to show your child different types of seals, such as the Good Housekeeping seal and the Caldecott book winner seal. Explain that when the Holy Spirit seals our membership in the Church, it is like receiving a “stamp of approval” for membership in the Church.

Ask your child to name the signs of Baptism shown in the pictures. (water, lit candle) What special candle is in the picture? (the Easter candle)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 136

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey** on page 136. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Faith Journal** pages 43–44.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 137

Read aloud **Remembering Baptism** on page 137. Point out that holy water is water that has been blessed and is used in celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism and in blessing people, places, and objects. Ask: Why is the Sign of the Cross a reminder of our Baptism? (Because we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as we pray in the prayer.) Remind your child of the litany he or she prayed in the previous chapter. Explain that the litany you will pray today will help him or her remember the signs of Baptism. Ask: What are the signs of Baptism? (water, oil or chrism, white clothes, lit candles)

Ask your child to point to the picture of the font. Ask: Which sign of Baptism does the font hold? (water) Draw your child’s attention to the triangle and intertwined circles in the picture of the stained-glass window, and explain that this is a sign of the Holy Trinity. Have your child look at the picture of the girl. Ask: What is the girl doing? (making the Sign of the Cross)

Close the lesson with **Prayer**. Arrange the signs of Baptism on a table nearby. Also display a cross or crucifix. Gather with your child around the table. Begin the prayer experience with the Sign of the Cross. Pray aloud each line of the litany, inviting your child to pray the response, “*We walk by faith.*” End the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 65–67.