



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. 17 Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

Baptism

Baptism is the first sacrament that a person receives; it is the way a person enters the Church. Through the waters of Baptism, we are united to Christ's death by "dying" to our old state of sin and we emerge to a new life purified from all sins.

Many of the events which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolic of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become adopted sons and daughters of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. After His baptism Jesus led a life of prayer and ministry; after our Baptism we are called to pray and work with God to build his Kingdom.

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline. Allow the Spirit to lead. Try to at least discuss the starred questions each week.]

- If someone asked you what Baptism is, what would you say?
- *What stuck out to you from the information above?
- *Through Baptism, God calls each of us to work with him in a special way to build his kingdom. What do you think God has in mind for you? What gifts did he give you that he is inviting you to share?
- What is your baptism date? What can you share about what you know about your baptism (stories of the day, who your godparents are, photos you have, etc.)?

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

On January 9th we celebrated the Baptism of Jesus, the feast day that ends the Christmas season. Why is this the feast day that ends the Christmas season? Because both the feast of the Nativity and the Baptism of the Lord highlight the humility of Jesus Christ. In both, Jesus shows his desire to become one with us, so that he can raise us up to be with him.

Jesus was sinless, so he had no need to seek baptism, and yet, he came to the place where the sinners were. When he humbled himself to be baptized he gave the water the power of the sacrament of Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world. At our Baptism, we receive the risen light of Christ, who is the Light of the World. We are then called to walk as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the additional resource provided by the parish. If you don't have it, you can download it on our website]

Research and recall your baptisms - dates, photos, etc. Then, mark each person's baptism date on the calendar you will use for the new year. Save the attached "renewal of baptismal vows" prayer so that you can pray it for each individual on their baptism date.

Today, light your baptismal candles if you have them, or any (ideally white) candles, one per person. Then pray the renewal of baptismal promises on the handout. End by sprinkling each person with holy water or making the sign of the cross with holy water, if available.

Holy water is a sign that reminds us of the waters of our baptism. If you don't have any holy water at your home, bottles and holy water are available at both churches. Look for the water dispensers (silver at St. Augustine & glass at St. Edward). Make it a goal to bring some home this week.

Parents can bless their children daily by saying "I bless you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" while making the sign of the cross on a child's forehead, or, people can bless themselves daily by making the sign of the cross, but only the priest makes the sign of the cross with his hand over others.

Extras

- 5 Minute Reflection Video on the Baptism of the Lord
<https://watch.formed.org/videos/baptism-of-the-lord-january-16-2020>
- Kids' Storybook Bible Video of the Baptism of Jesus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbhKtdWtBec>

Sacramental Life

This week is the family gathering for those preparing for first reconciliation & first communion and for confirmation. Those activities will take the place of journal prompts this week.

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, Jan 18:

- See the parish or website for additional handouts and coloring pages

Coming Up:

- Confirmation AND First Reconciliation/Communion Students - your whole family should plan to attend on Feb 8 6-8 pm at St Augustine for a formation night.

