

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

The story of Jesus' baptism in Sunday's Gospel shows the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. After John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan, God announces to the crowd that Jesus is his beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove settled on him. Baptism gives us new life as adopted children of God and gives all the gift of that Holy Spirit. Living the Gospel helps those who follow Jesus be a witness to the world that the Good News is for everyone.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that the Sacrament of Baptism makes people members of God's family—the Church. Take time to show your child pictures of his or her Baptism. Share the names of the godparents. This is also a good opportunity for you to make sure that your child knows how to make the Sign of the Cross.

Promise (Grades K–1): In class, the children shared the story of Jesus' baptism. Talk to your child about the memories you have of his or her Baptism. Talk about the white garments, the candle, the godparents, the priest or deacon who performed the ceremony, and the pouring of the water. Help your child with all the information needed to complete the back of the Baptism "strip."

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week your child learned that Jesus' baptism by Saint John was the beginning of his work teaching about God's love. Your child also became familiar with the rite of the Sacrament of Baptism. The class also learned that people are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit. Whenever you make the Sign of the Cross, you are reminded that you are members of God's family, the Church. As a family, try to begin all your activities with the Sign of the Cross.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week your child learned that Baptism makes them members of the Church. Baptism is also a call for everyone to act justly. Your child learned the principles of Catholic social teaching. Ask them to share those with the family. Discuss how the Holy Spirit speaks with us and directs our lives. During any discussions, consider using a Talking Stick like the one from the lesson.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has been an opportunity for your teenager to learn more about two of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism is also a call to make a difference in all the communities to which we belong. Take some time to share together how important it is for your family to be active members of the Christian community, to worship together, and to be signs to others of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Pray Together

Before the evening meal or at some other time when you are all together, renew your baptismal promises to believe what the Church teaches and to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.