

Eucharist

Family Guide



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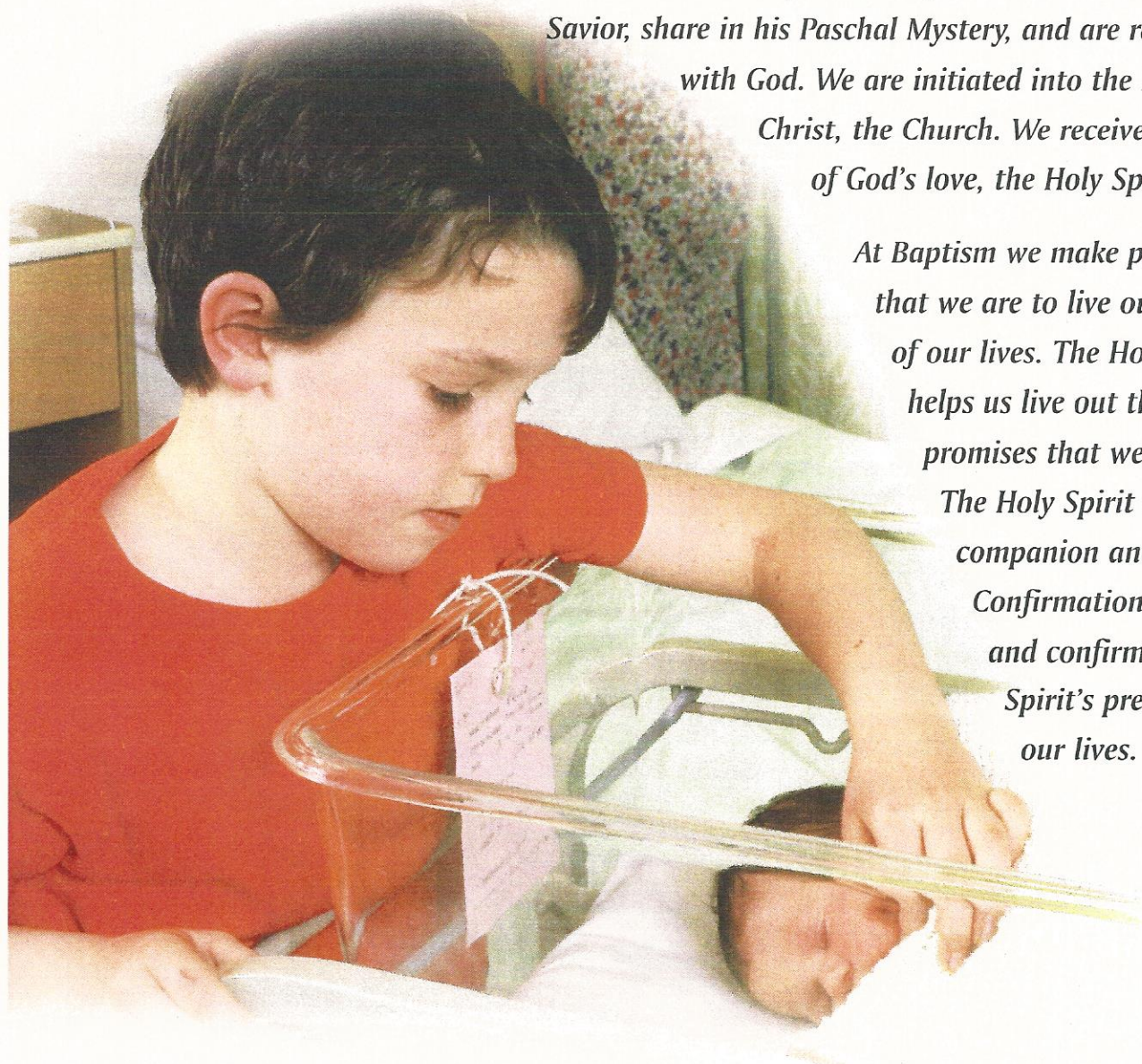
Cincinnati, Ohio

Many years ago you chose to present your child to the Church for Baptism.

Take a moment and recall your child's Baptism. Why did you choose to present your child for Baptism? Why was this a special day for your family and friends? What difference has it made in your life that you chose to have your child baptized?

Baptism is the first sacrament we receive. Through the waters of Baptism we are reborn to new life in Christ and are made sharers in the divine life. We are joined to Christ, the Risen Savior, share in his Paschal Mystery, and are reconciled with God. We are initiated into the Body of Christ, the Church. We receive the gift of God's love, the Holy Spirit.

At Baptism we make promises that we are to live out the rest of our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us live out the promises that we make. The Holy Spirit is our companion and guide. Confirmation celebrates and confirms the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.



Overview

What We Will Learn

In your time together your family will deepen its understanding and living of the Church's faith. The faith theme of this lesson is:

Baptism makes us sharers in the life of God. This sacrament joins us to Christ and to the members of the church community.

What We Will Do

Follow these simple steps to help your child prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. The details of this process are found on page 14 of this family guide.

- **Preparation:** Read and reflect on the background essay on page 12. Look over the "Overview" page.
- **Step One:** Celebrate and share your experience of the ritual action of blessing yourselves with water. The ritual is found on page 15 of this family guide.
- **Step Two:** Retell and share your understanding of the Scripture story "The Baptism of Jesus" (Matthew 3:13–17). An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 6 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Step Three:** Discuss and share what happens at Baptism and Confirmation. The Church's teaching on Baptism and Confirmation is found on pages 8–11 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Step Four:** Choose to make a difference in your own lives and in the lives of others by living as followers of Jesus. Suggested activities are found on pages 12 and 13 of your child's *Eucharist* book.
- **Conclusion:** Pray together a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of new life that you received at Baptism. A suggested prayer is found on page 14 of this family guide.

What We Will Need

These are the items you will need for this lesson. Take the time to gather them in advance of meeting with your child:

- RCL Benziger's *Eucharist* child's book
- A large bowl of water
- Family Bible or a children's version of the Bible
- Scripture card "The Baptism of Jesus"
- Pencils and crayons or markers

Looking for More

These are some additional resources that will help you enrich or extend the lesson:

- RCL Benziger's *Eucharist* music CD, Song 1, "Come to the Feast/Ven al Banquete."
- **Children's Books**
 - My First Holy Communion* by Melissa Musick Nussbaum (Liturgy Training Publications). An invitation to learn and love the words that we all say and sing at Mass.
 - A Walk through our Church* by Gertrud Mueller Nelson (Paulist Press). A description of the appearance and significance of various objects encountered in a church.
- **Children's Videos**
 - Faith First** Grade 2 video, Segment 3, "The Story of St. Clare"; Segment 4, Bible Songs: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian."
 - Faith First** Grade 3 video, Segment 2, The Visual Bible™, "The Baptism of Jesus."
- **Faith First** Eucharist interactive calendar.



Visit the RCL Benziger sacraments web site by following the link titled "Sacraments" at www.FaithFirst.com.

Sharing Together

STEP ONE

Celebrate the Ritual

- Celebrate the ritual "Blessing with Water."
- Invite everyone to share what it was like to experience the family ritual. Be sure to affirm all responses.
- Open the child's book to pages 4 and 5. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the photographs.
- Read, discuss, and complete the rest of page 5.

- Read, discuss, and complete pages 10 and 11. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."

STEP FOUR

Make a Difference

- Read, discuss, and complete page 12. Encourage everyone to share a faith choice.
- Read, discuss, and complete page 13. Choose one activity from "Sharing Together" that will help you live your faith as a family.
- Turn to the back of the child's book and punch out the Scripture card "The Baptism of Jesus." Talk about the card and where you can keep it to serve as a reminder of this lesson and your time together.

STEP TWO

Share the Scripture Story

- Look at the illustration on pages 6 and 7. Ask your child to describe what they see happening in the illustration.
- Point out the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as they listen to the Scripture story.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 6 and 7. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."

STEP THREE

Discover the Faith of the Church

- Look at the photograph about Baptism on pages 8 and 9. Ask your child how water is being used in the photograph.
- Point out and read the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.
- Read, discuss, and complete pages 8 and 9. Pay special attention to "Together as a Family."
- Explain that when we make the sign of the cross, we remember that we are baptized. Be sure that your child can pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Look at the photographs about Confirmation on pages 10 and 11. Point out that the bishop is anointing the person's forehead with Chrism. Explain that Chrism is also used at Baptism.
- Point out the "Faith Focus" question. Ask your child to listen for the answer as you read these pages.



Closing Prayer

Conclude your time together by using this prayer or one of your own choosing.

ALL: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of new life
that you have given us in Baptism.
May the Holy Spirit help us live
as followers of Jesus.

We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by
your life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Each lesson always begins with a family ritual. These rituals are essential to the lesson. The rituals provide your family with a common prayer experience on which to reflect. The rest of the lesson builds upon your family's reflections.

Blessing with Water

Gathering

Gather your family around a table on which there is a large bowl of water. Invite everyone to become aware of God's presence. After a moment of quiet, begin the celebration of the ritual.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Making the sign of the cross, say,
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you are with us as we come together
in prayer.
Send the Holy Spirit to open our hearts
to your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

Proclaim or invite someone to proclaim the Scripture story "The Baptism of Jesus" (Matthew 3:13–17) from your family Bible. An adapted version of the Scripture story is found on page 6 of your child's Eucharist book.

LEADER: Let us now listen to a story from the Bible.

READER: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, saying,
Glory to you, O Lord.*

READER: *Proclaim the Scripture. Conclude the reading, saying,
The Gospel of the Lord.*

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual

Point out that after each family member thanks God for the gift of their Baptism, you will bless yourselves with water. Invite your child to thank God quietly, or pray a brief prayer of thanksgiving with your child.

LEADER: Now let us each dip our right hand into the water and bless ourselves, making the sign of the cross.

*As each person blesses themselves, say,
(Name), be blessed by this water and
remember the gift of your Baptism.*

ALL: Amen.

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of our Baptism.
You welcome us into your Church.
Send us the Holy Spirit
to help us learn to live as children of God.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.