

Overview

In Chapter 4 the students learned that Baptism frees us from sin and gives us new life in Christ. In this chapter they will learn more about the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection
Catechism of the Catholic Church

The students will learn:

- The Church welcomes all to be baptized. 1226
- The parish community participates in the celebration of Baptism. 1248
- Water is an important sign of Baptism. 1217–1222
- The baptized begin their new life as children of God. 1254

Paragraph

Key Words

catechumenate
Sacred Chrism

Catechist Background

When have you felt welcomed? How does welcoming another make you feel?

Before Vatican II, adults who sought Baptism met with a priest for instruction and were baptized privately. With the renewal of Vatican II, the Church restored an ancient process of initiation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This process has several periods and stages, marked by sacred rites at particular points in time. The process includes a period of receiving people who are inquiring about the faith; a period of formation that includes prayer and liturgy, instruction and service called the *catechumenate*: a period of intense preparation and prayer during Lent; the celebration of the sacraments usually at the Easter Vigil; and a period of reflection upon the mysteries and living out the Christian mission, called *mystagogy*. Through this process, the Church now initiates children of catechetical age and adults with three sacraments during one liturgy: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter's correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

The Church continues to baptize infants as well. We celebrate Baptism whenever possible during the Mass, where it is most clearly connected to the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Christ. The participation of the whole community is important, because it is into this community that the newly baptized are being initiated. The newly baptized are a sign of new life and hope for the community.

At Baptism we are either immersed or water is poured on our head three times in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We are anointed with oil, recalling Jesus' anointing.

We are clothed with a baptismal garment, symbolizing putting on Christ, and receive a candle, signifying the light of Christ.

What part of the celebration of Baptism is especially meaningful to you?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

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Prayer



Focus on Life

- Renewal of baptismal promises.


- Discuss ways to welcome people.

For the prayer space: cloth for table, bowl for holy water, baptismal candle, large paper cross

2 WE BELIEVE

page 52

The Church welcomes all to be baptized.

- Discuss the Baptisms of adults and children.
- Study the word *catechumenate*.
-  Write a letter to a future godchild.

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The parish community participates in the celebration of Baptism.

Rite of Baptism

- Read about and discuss community participation in Baptism.
- Read and discuss *As Catholics*.


- copies of Reproducible Master 5, guide page 51C

page 54

Water is an important sign of Baptism.

Rite of Baptism



- Discuss the blessing of baptismal water.
-  Discuss reasons why water is so important.

page 55

The baptized begin their new life as children of God.

Rite of Baptism

- Read about and discuss the baptismal celebration.

3 WE RESPOND

page 55



Fill in the journey of faith map.

- bottle of holy water

page 56–57
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 5 (back of book)

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Chapter 5 Test

- Complete **Chapter 5 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 5 (back of book)