

Getting Ready for Chapter 6

Take Home



Baptism Is a Wonderful Gift

All Christians have received the wonderful gift of Baptism. This chapter discusses Baptism as a celebration of becoming a member of the Catholic Church and a follower of Jesus Christ. The children will learn that holy water is a sign of God's gift of new life. They will learn that God's loving presence in our lives is called grace..

ACTIVITY

Bless Your Child Bless your child with holy water by making a sign of the cross on his or her forehead while saying the words, "God be with you." Remind your child that God will always be there to help, and that your family will be there to listen and to give support.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Listen to the words of the Creed. This prayer states what we believe as Catholics. Discuss a belief from the Creed on the way home from church.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656–1680)

Kateri Tekakwitha, a native American, was born in New York State. To be baptized demanded great courage, as her own people discriminated against her. Kateri escaped to Canada where she cared for the sick and taught Bible stories to children.

Fest Day: July 14



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, we thank you for the gift of Baptism. We are happy to be followers of Jesus. Help us share our faith with others by following the example of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. Amen.

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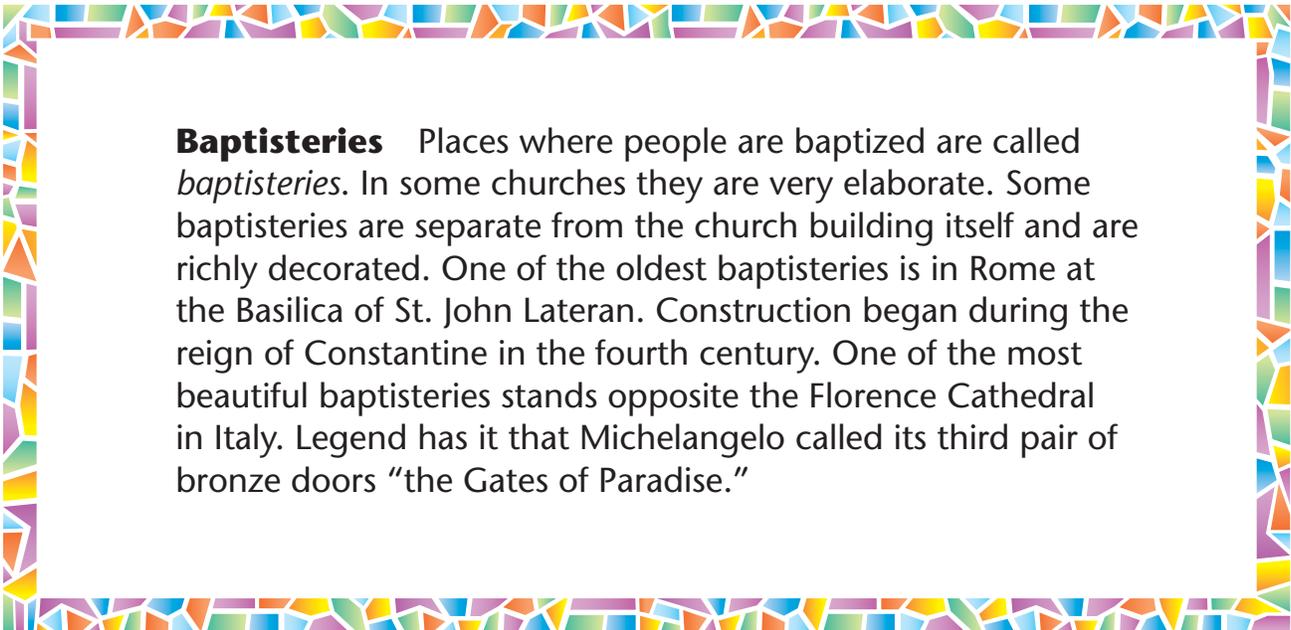
Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Water Water played a vital role in the desert areas of Palestine. Always a symbol of life for humans, animals, and plants, water also served as an element of ritual purification before meals and in actions to effect cures for skin diseases or other ailments. The *Rite of Baptism* uses water to “cleanse” the soul of original sin, so that we may be “born of water and Spirit” (John 3:5), likening us to those whom God saved through the Flood.

You can read about Jesus’ baptism by John in Mark 1:7–11 and Philip’s baptism of the Ethiopian in Acts 8:36–38.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art



Baptisteries Places where people are baptized are called *baptisteries*. In some churches they are very elaborate. Some baptisteries are separate from the church building itself and are richly decorated. One of the oldest baptisteries is in Rome at the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Construction began during the reign of Constantine in the fourth century. One of the most beautiful baptisteries stands opposite the Florence Cathedral in Italy. Legend has it that Michelangelo called its third pair of bronze doors “the Gates of Paradise.”