

Getting Ready for Chapter 6

Take Home



Baptism and Confirmation

Our membership in the Catholic Church begins at Baptism. The Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—bring us into full union with the Church. They support us on our pilgrimage to God’s Kingdom.

ACTIVITY

A Spiritual Time Line List the years in which family members received the Sacraments of Initiation. Then make a time line that shows those important dates in your family’s spiritual history. Display the time line in a prominent place in your home.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Look around your Church for symbols of the Holy Spirit.

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



Saint Margaret Clitherow (1555–1586)

Saint Margaret lived during the Reformation in England, when Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith. She risked her life many times to hide priests. Eventually, she was arrested and sentenced to death. She is remembered today as the “Pearl of York.”

Patron Saint of: martyrs
Feast Day: March 26



A Prayer for the Week

We invite you, dear Lord, into our lives and into our home just as you invite us through Baptism and Confirmation into the life of the Church. Amen.



Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Early Baptism Ritual purifications with water were required by the Law and practiced by Jews before the time of Jesus (Exodus 30:17–21). In Jesus' time, the Jewish people often used baths filled with rainwater for this ritual, because it was required that "living" water be used. The baptisms performed by John the Baptist adhered to this law (Mark 1:5). Similarly, as Jewish purification rites involved immersion, John's baptisms also included immersion. Although John's baptisms were based on Jewish custom, they differed in that they were performed in expectation of the coming Messiah.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Honoring Saints

Ireland In Ireland, it was once thought presumptuous to name a child after a saint. Instead saint names were sometimes made part of surnames. *Gil* and *Kil* mean "a servant of," so Gilmartin means "a servant of Martin" and Kilpatrick, "a servant of Patrick." Even after people began naming their children after saints, they often refrained from naming their daughters *Muire*, the Irish form of "Mary" reserved for Our Lady. At the end of the fifteenth century, *Maire*, a variant spelling of *Muire*, became acceptable.