

Getting Ready for Chapter 2

Take Home



We Belong to the Church

This chapter describes the journey your child has begun in the faith. Baptism uses common elements, such as water, light, and oil as signs of our membership in the Catholic Church.

ACTIVITY

Signs of Baptism Show pictures of baptisms of family members. Discuss the signs of white clothes, blessed water, oil, and a lighted candle. Share stories about the experience.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Upon entering church, use the holy water font and make the Sign of the Cross. Remember your membership in the Church as a follower of Jesus.

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 Josephine Bakhita
(1868–1947)

As a child living in Sudan, Josephine Bakhita was sold into slavery. She was later sent to Italy. There, in 1896, she converted to Catholicism and became a religious sister.

Patron Saint of: Sudan
Feast Day: February 8



A Prayer for the Week

Jesus, we are grateful to be a part of your Church. We know that belonging to your Church will bring us happiness and blessings. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Baptism Before its institution as a Christian sacrament, baptism was a term used to signify Jewish ritual cleansing or purification. Jewish priests performed baptisms to welcome new members. Christian baptism of converts carried on the tradition of purification for entry into the new covenant. Biblical comparisons with baptism include Israel's Exodus through the sea, Noah's salvation from the Flood, and Jesus' death and Resurrection.

You can read about purification in Genesis 7:12–23;
1 Corinthians 10:1–3.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

The Baptism of Christ *The Baptism of Christ* by Piero della Francesca is one of the finest paintings of the Italian Renaissance. The painting is now in the National Gallery in London, but it was originally an altarpiece in the chapel of St. John the Baptist in Piero's native town, Sansepolcro, in central Italy.

The painting illustrates the artist's concept of Christ's baptism when St. John pours water from a bowl over Christ as the Holy Spirit descends from heaven.