

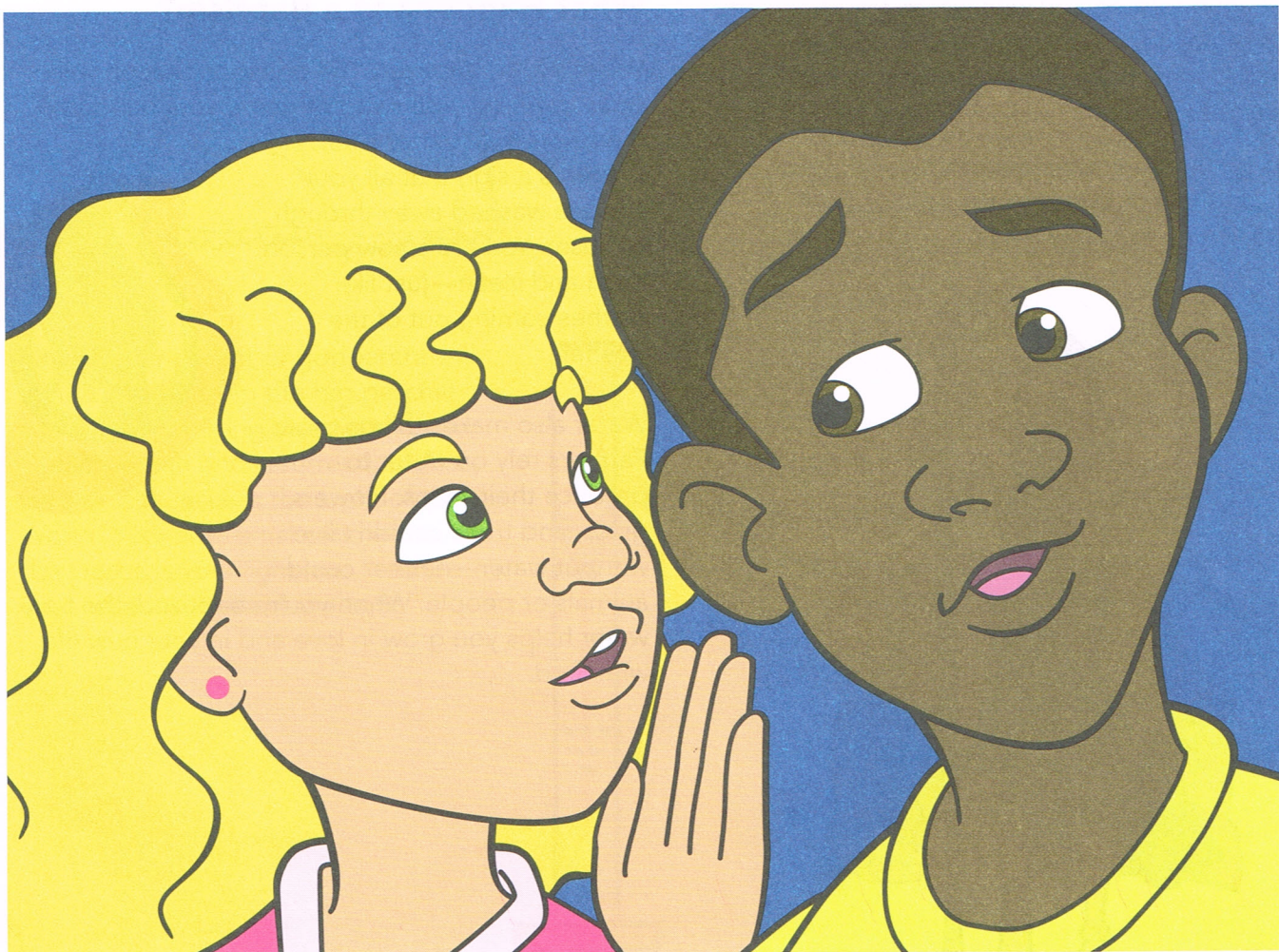
# Journey of Faith



## The Sacrament of Baptism

"Why can't people be baptized without getting all wet?" Tanya whispered to Terrence.

Mrs. Evans overheard them. "That's a great question!" she said. "Water is an important sign of baptism. What do you think water could be a sign of?"







**Why do you think water is so important for baptism?**

## John the Baptist: Chosen by God

John the Baptist was unusual. He wore clothes made of camel's hair. He ate grasshoppers and honey. He lived alone in the wilderness far from villages and towns. People from miles around came to hear John speak. He told the people to turn to God and begin living a new life. Then he baptized them in the waters of the Jordan River. That is why he was called John "the Baptist." Baptizing people with water symbolized that their sins were washed away.

God chose John for another job that was even more important. John was to tell everyone that Jesus was coming. John said,

*"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11; see also Luke 3:16 and Mark 1:7–8).*

Jesus is "the one" who is more powerful than John, and today Jesus baptizes every new Christian with the Holy Spirit.



## Beginning Your New Life

The first sacrament you receive when you become a Catholic is baptism. When you are baptized, you are reborn into the family of Jesus. In your new life, Jesus leads and guides you in his way of love. In your new life, you live for God, just like Jesus did when he was in the world.

## Joining the Family of God

You belong to God's family the moment you're baptized. This family is all the people who pray with you in church and who pray to Jesus across the world. That's a very big family!

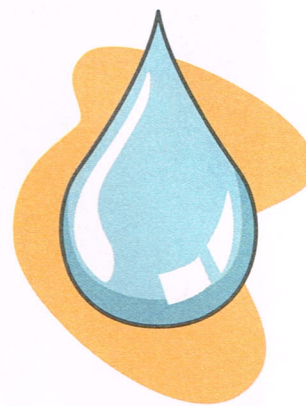
Just like your family at home, being a member of God's family comes with responsibilities. At home you have to do chores, help around the house, and obey your parents' rules. It's the same in God's family. You have to serve others, help those in need, and obey God's commandments.

## What Happens at a Baptism?

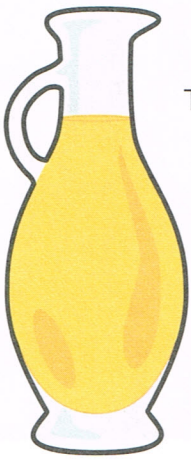
When you're baptized, the priest or deacon will pour water on your head or guide your head into the baptismal font or pool.

**Water** is a sign that all your sins are washed away through baptism. You are a new person, fresh and clean—just like clothes coming out of the washer.

Water also makes things grow. Farmers rely on water to produce their crops. Flowers, grass, and trees couldn't live without water—neither could animals or people. When you're baptized, the holy water helps you grow in love and in your new life with God.



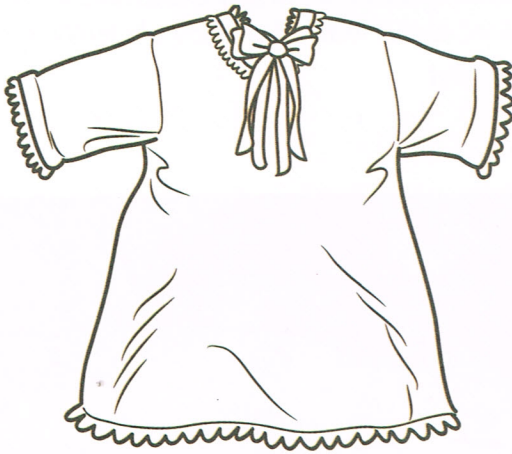




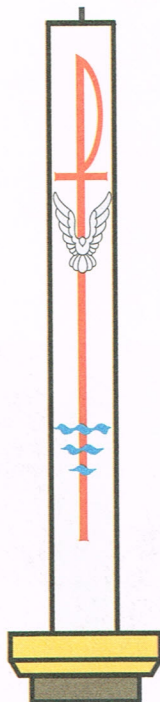
After your baptism, you are anointed with the **oil of chrism**. This is a special oil blessed by a bishop. This anointing signifies that you belong to the kingdom of God.



Next, you're clothed in a white robe or **white garment**, which shows that you're a new person and that you have wrapped yourself in Jesus.



Finally, your parent or godparent will light a **candle** from the big paschal candle, symbolizing that we share in Christ's death and resurrection. Also, we say that Jesus is the Light of the World. Your baptismal candle shows that Jesus is your light, too. You are now called a "child of the light."



## Now What?

As a new Catholic, you will:

- Learn about Jesus and God's love for us by reading the Bible, participating in weekly Mass, and going to religious-education classes.
- Follow the Ten Commandments, the laws God gave to his people many hundreds of years ago.
- Receive the sacraments that Jesus gave to his Church.
- Love others as Jesus has loved you.
- Best of all, live in the peace and happiness of God's family!





## SYMBOL AND SIGN

Match each of the following signs or symbols with its meaning.

oil of chrism



Sharing in Christ's death and resurrection



Paschal candle

New life

water



Membership in God's kingdom



white garment

Light of Christ

your baptismal candle



Cleansing from sin

### In Short

- Baptism is one of the seven sacraments.
- Baptism has a historical and biblical foundation.
- Baptism has many significant symbols.



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