



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

TOPIC: BAPTISM

MATERIALS

- **Ice breaker:** wax paper, scissors, small dish of water, straws (optional)
- **Baptism Facts Game:** piece of paper and pen per family, prize
- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises:** extra candles for families that forget to bring their own Baptismal Candles and holy water for each family
- **Baptismal Promises Drops of Water Activity:** Crayons, tape or glue. [Instructions](#), [cut-outs](#).

Goal(s):

- To reflect on All Saints' Day, families will share with one another about their favorite saints and/or saint names.
- Families will share about a special loved one for whom they will pray on All Souls' Day.
- Families will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Families will share about our own baptisms.
- Families will review and renew their baptismal vows.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Water Drop Race

Water Drop Race is an indoor water game. It is not messy at all! This works well with any age group so try it yourself! It is not difficult to move the drop of water as long as you don't blow too hard. That will cause it to divide into smaller drops.

1. Tear off a sheet of wax paper for each player. Use the scissors to cut them into the same size.
2. Place a large drop of water on each sheet of wax paper.
3. Have the players blow on the drops to move them along the wax paper. They can either blow directly on the drop or use a straw.
4. First player to get their drop of water (or most of it) to the opposite side wins.
5. Note: It might be helpful to lay down some rules about how much of the water has to get to the end of the sheet of wax paper. If they separate their drop, they can either blow it back into one big drop or move the smaller drops separately to the end.



FAMILY SHARING

Ask each family to show the photo/picture of the loved one(s) that they will be praying for during All Souls Day, which is celebrated on November 2nd. **Invite** families to share about who the person is, and why he/she is important to their family.

Ask: “Was that special person named after a saint? Do you have a favorite saint? Why is that saint your favorite? Are you named after a saint? Who is that saint?”

Then ask families to place their photos on their home altars so they can remember to pray for their loved one during the month of November.



CONTENT

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace, to help us grow in holiness. Sacraments are mysteries of the New Covenant established by Jesus; they are signs of the sacred action and presence of God in our midst today. They are more than mere signs, however, for through the sacraments the Lord gives His grace—His divine life—to us.

Today we are going to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism, share about our own Baptisms, and renew our baptismal vows.

Watch: Sacraments 101: Baptism
(why we baptize) (6 min)



BAPTISM FACTS GAME

Provide each family with a piece of paper and pen. Ask families to think of as many facts that they know about the Sacrament of Baptism in two minutes. The facts can include:

- What is Baptism?
- What does Baptism do for us?
- How is someone baptized?
- How many times can a person be baptized?
- Who in the New Testament baptized Jesus?
- Why do Catholics baptize infants?

Invite families to read their lists. Consider making it a contest and giving the family with the most facts a small prize.

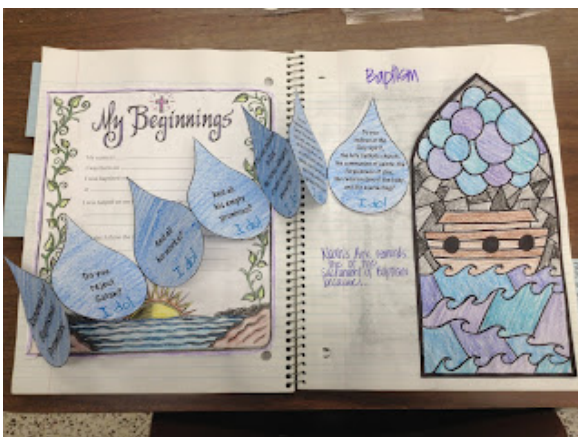
FAMILY CONVERSATION

1. Model, remind, and help families to feel comfortable, by first briefly showing examples of your baptismal sacramental(s), a candle, and photos from your Baptism or the Baptism of someone in your family that you have placed on your home altar.
2. Invite the family members to show the sacramental(s) and photos from their own Baptisms that mark the beginning of their mission as children of God and that they have placed on their home altars.
3. Ask families to answer (some or all of) the following questions either with their children or in a large group:
 - How old were you when you were baptized?
 - What do you know about your own Baptism?
 - If you were baptized as an adult, why did you want to be baptized?
 - How do you think you are answering God's call to live out your Baptism?
 - Has Jesus helped you to live out your Baptism and if so, when or how?
 - What do you remember about each of your children's Baptism?
 - Why was it important to you that your children be baptized?
 - What do you hope for your children as they answer God's call to live out their Baptism and share in Jesus' mission in the world?
 - What do you hope for your parents as they answer God's call to live out their Baptism and share in Jesus' mission?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Baptismal Promises Drops of Water Activity

1. Together with families, read the baptismal vows listed on the drops of water
2. Provide families with crayons, tape and/or glue to color and connect the drops (see [intructions](#), and [cut-outs](#))



PRAY

Renewal of Baptismal Promises including blessing with holy water and lighting of baptismal candle:
(Note: This version of the renewal of baptismal promises is designed for a gathering in the parish led by catechists. If possible, you may consider inviting a priest or deacon to preside.)

1. Provide families with a candle if they did not bring their own baptismal candles and some holy water.
2. Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for loving us and for sending Your beloved Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Now that we have reflected on our own Baptisms, we ask Jesus with the Holy Spirit to be in our midst. As families, we come before You as we bless one another with holy water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
3. Instruct parents to use the holy water to bless each of their children and one another by making the sign of the cross on their forehead (with their thumbs) saying, "I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen".
4. Instruct parents to light their baptismal candles.
5. Explain: Today, your families will renew your baptismal promises to be the light of God in the world. After each promise please respond: I do.

Leader: Do you reject Satan? **R.** I do.

Leader: And all his works? **R.** I do.

Leader: And all his empty promises? **R.** I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **R.** I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **R.** I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **R.** I do.

Leader: God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven our sins. May we always remember who we truly are, God's beloved sons and daughters in whom He is well pleased. May we live with the Trinity as children of the family of God for ever and ever. **R.** Amen.

REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

