

LESSON 3

Our Baptism



Learning Objectives

In this lesson you will:

- Realize that the Holy Spirit is our helper and guides us to do good things.
- Understand that the Holy Spirit is present in all the Mysteries, and reflect on his role in Baptism.
- Ask the Holy Spirit, in prayer, to help you overcome temptation and choose what is good.

Opening Prayer

O Lord, help me to be faithful to my baptismal promises. Amen.



Opening Activity

Scan the QR code to access the online resources.

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Introduction

To become followers of Jesus, we need to be baptized. The first time we hear God the Father's voice is during the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). God said the same to us at our Baptism, and repeats it at every moment of our lives: You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter. In this lesson we will learn how special Baptism is.

Reflection Questions

1. *How do you know what God wants you to do?*
2. *In what ways has God spoken to your heart?*



Point **1**

What Is Baptism?

Each one of us was born a child into this world. Many of us were born at a hospital, while some of us were born at home. Each of us were also reborn by the waters of Baptism. In Baptism, we receive a new birth: “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit” (Jn 3:5). In our Baptism, we die with Christ and resurrect with him to a new life. We are born again.

Our Liturgy describes the baptismal font as the “womb” of the Church, from which we are born anew. Through Baptism we are made sons and daughters of God, a grace that has been bestowed on us through Jesus and his Mysteries.

? Reflection Question

1. *What do you see in the above icon?*

Point **2**

Gift of Baptism

At **Baptism**, you become a son or daughter of God and all your sins — original and personal — are forgiven. You are given God’s own life. We call this life and gift **grace**. It is a free and undeserved gift that God gives us when we ask for it and when we participate in the **Holy Mysteries**. It is like a seed that grows within you whenever you pray and take part in the other Holy Mysteries. Grace helps you grow in holiness.

Jesus was baptized and went to pray in the desert, where he was tempted three times by the Devil, but he came back triumphant. With his grace, which we receive in Baptism, and with prayer, we can also say “no” to temptation.



Point 3

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus during Baptism. In the same way, the Holy Spirit comes down on you during your Baptism and Chrismation. When you receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Chrismation, you receive the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**, which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

1. **Wisdom** helps us understand the things of God, and to direct our whole life and all our actions to his honor and glory.
2. **Understanding** is the ability to understand what is revealed from the Mystery of God.
3. **Counsel** helps us know right from wrong.
4. **Fortitude** makes us brave to follow Jesus to seek the truth, do what is good, and love the beautiful.
5. **Knowledge** enables us to discover God's will in everything, and all situations.
6. **Piety** helps us love God more and pray more.
7. **Fear of the Lord** helps us remember that with God we have nothing to fear in this world, but we must revere him alone as our loving Creator.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to choose what is good.

? Reflection Questions

1. *How do you receive the Holy Spirit?*
2. *What helps you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit?*

Activity 1

Find the Baptismal Font

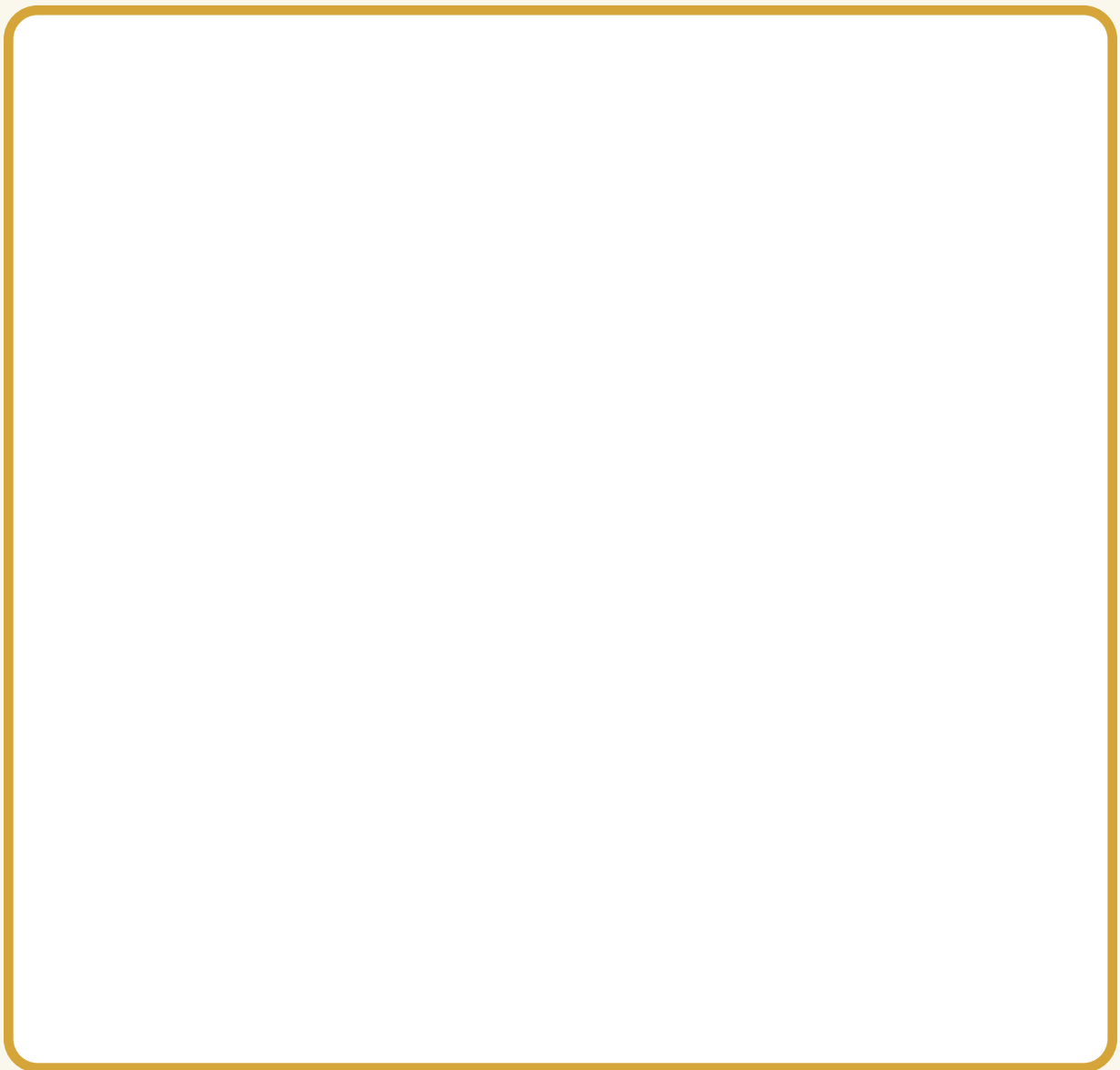
Directions: *Find the baptismal font in the Church, and pray for those about to be baptized. Write your prayer below or pray aloud as a group.*



Activity 2

Living in the Spirit

Directions: Choose one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in the space below, draw a picture of yourself using that gift.

A large, empty rectangular box with a gold border, intended for drawing. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the page.



Maronite Wisdom

“I renounce you, Satan, all your angels, all your powers, all your worldly pomp, all your corrupt teaching, and all that is from you. I believe in you, O Almighty God, the Father, in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in your Holy and living Spirit, the Paraclete.”

— *The Mystery of Baptism*

My Role Model

Saint John the Baptist



Saint John the Baptist was Jesus’ cousin, and he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. John led a simple life. He was only concerned with the Kingdom of God and always spoke of love and truth. He is a model of how to live a life in Christ. John taught those who followed him to turn to Christ. He called Jesus the “Lamb of God.” In all that John did, he pointed his followers toward Christ, instead of calling attention to himself.

After he baptized Jesus, John’s popularity grew and this upset King Herod. Herod had John arrested and imprisoned. This did not stop John. He continued to speak about Christ and living a good life until he was beheaded. We honor the birth of John the Baptist on June 24 and remember his beheading on August 29.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.



Recall

Match the terms on the left with their correct descriptions on the right.

Term

_____ Baptism

_____ Fortitude/Courage

_____ Gifts of the Holy Spirit

_____ Knowledge

Definition

- A.** This enables us to discover God's will in all things, especially the Bible and the teachings of Jesus.
- B.** Holy Mystery that forgives Original Sin and gives us grace.
- C.** What we receive at Baptism and Chrismation.
- D.** Makes us brave in following Jesus by seeking the truth, choosing the good, and loving the beautiful.



Weekly Journal



We have discussed the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Think of one that is important in your life.

Write: Which gift of the Holy Spirit helps you the most? Which one do you lack, and how can you grow in that gift?

Concluding Prayer



During the last part of the Creed, we profess our faith in the Holy Spirit. Let us pray: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. Amen.

Climbing the Mountain

Bonus Materials for Students & Teachers



Lk 3:21-23

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Reflection

Jesus did not get baptized because he had Original Sin. Like the Blessed Mother, Jesus was without sin. Rather, Jesus was baptized to make holy the waters of our Baptism and to show us how to be born again.

Through Baptism, we become sons and daughters of the Father. Jesus is our Lord and the Holy Spirit is our guide. By our Baptism, we share in Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

Saintly Quote

“Blessed is he who came down and sanctified water for the remission of the sins of the children of Adam!” — *Saint Ephrem the Syrian*

Questions

1. What is God saying to you through this Scripture verse?
2. Why is Baptism so important?

Reaching the Summit

For Teachers & Parents



“Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own Baptism anticipates his death and resurrection.”

— CCC 537

The Gift of Baptism

Baptism is not something that happens once and then is over. Throughout your life, the grace you receive in Baptism, helps you live as a good son or daughter of God. We can see how the grace of Baptism continues to help us live as children of God with whom he is well pleased.

Here is the story of Jesus triumphing against temptation according to Luke:

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

— Lk 4:1-12

After his baptism, Jesus went to the desert where the devil tried to tempt him. Jesus' baptism showed he was the Messiah. Unlike Adam, who failed, Jesus, the new Adam, beat the devil and now leads us back to paradise.

The Grace of Baptism

At every Divine Liturgy, we remember the grace of Baptism. We do this especially in a prayer at the beginning of the Anaphora. The priest says: "May the love of God the Father, the grace of the only-begotten Son, and the unity and indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you for ever." And we answer, "Amen."

Discussion Questions

1. How can you help your child remember the importance of his or her baptismal day?
2. How can you help your child realize the graces of his or her Baptism?

Words to Know



Q. What are the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**?

A. Seven special virtues given to us by the Holy Spirit to help us grow in holiness and our ability to make morally good decisions. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Q. What is **grace**?

A. A free and undeserved gift from God given to us when we ask for it and are open to receive it. It is also given to us when we participate in the Holy Mysteries. Grace allows us to grow in holiness and share in God's own life.

Q. What are the **Holy Mysteries**?

A. A gift given to the Church by Jesus. The Holy Mysteries are celebrations where we meet Jesus Christ and grow in holiness. The Catholic Church has seven Holy Mysteries: Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Crowning (Marriage), and Holy Orders.



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