

Family Faith Formation

BREAD November Session #2

Sacraments of Initiation & Baptism

“Amen, amen I say to you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.” (1 John 3:5)

BREAD Resource Page: [Latest News from Faith Formation](#)

This month we focus on:

- I. The Sacraments of Initiation
- II. The Sacraments of Initiation insert us into the life and mission of the Church
- III. The Sacrament of Baptism



Saints of the Month:



PG 76
AB 70-71

Word to know:

Baptism
Form
Matter
Recipient
Effect

To initiate
Vocation
Evangelize
Gospel

John 3:5
PG 47
AB 48-49

Do activity #1
“What is an Initiation?”
PG:17-18
AB 50-51

Do activity #2
“The Vocation of a Christian”
PG:56-58
AB:52-55

Bonus Activity
PG 59
AB: 56-57 & 58-59

St. Catherine of Alexandria:

Also known as St. Catherine of the Wheel and the Great Martyr Saint, was born around 287AD and martyred 305AD in Alexandria Egypt. She had a moving vision of the Virgin Mary and Jesus when she was 14years old, that is when she decided to become a Christian. She was very brave because when the Emperor Maxentius was persecuting Christians, she stood up to him and told him he was cruel. He did not immediately persecute her because she was the daughter of the governor, instead he summoned 50 scholars to debate her. When her eloquent words won the debate and converted several pagans to Christianity, they were immediately executed and sent her to jail. When the Emperor saw that nothing would deter her from speaking about Jesus, he offered to marry her if she denied Jesus. She never denied her faith and refused saying: “ I have become a bride of Christ” So the Emperor sentenced her to death, executing her on a breaking wheel. As soon as she touched it, it shattered. Since he was not able to execute her by the wheel he had her beheaded. She is known as the patron saint of student and unmarried girls, among others.

The Sacraments of Initiation

The Sacraments of Initiation bring us into the life and mission of the Church

- A. The Sacraments of Initiation make us all Children of God and Disciples.
 1. To be Saints
 2. To Evangelize
- B. We are Called to be Saints
 1. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (5:48)
 2. In Matthew 22, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
 3. The answer to becoming perfect, becoming a saint, is LOVE! We must love God above all else and then also love our neighbors. Think of any saint, what do they all have in common? They LOVED passionately and radically!
 4. We are all works in progress. We are all at different levels in our journey and we are all called to different paths.
 5. God is not calling you to be St. Mother Teresa, **He is calling you to be St. You!** That means look at your life and ask God to show you how you can simply love those in your own world a little more each day.
 6. It starts with your family at home and outside, then it goes to your coworkers, and then the stranger, and if you take it a little bit at a time and one person at a time, before you know it you are learning to love like the Saints.
- C. We are called to evangelize
 1. Evangelization is simply the **sharing of the Gospel by word and example.**
 2. The word **Gospel means good news!**
 3. We live out this call to evangelize simply by sharing the good news of how Christ has worked in our lives.
 4. Pope Paul VI tells us that the Church exists in order to evangelize, therefore if we are members of the Church then we have an obligation to evangelize. Since the Sacraments of initiation make us members of the church they therefore give us the mandate to evangelize.

Word to know:

Baptism
Form
Matter
Recipient
Effect

Do Activity #1

“What is
Baptism?”

PG: 63-64

AB: 60-61

Bonus Activity

PG:65 & 77

Do Activity #2

“Baptism
Prefigured”

PG: 66-67

AB: 60-61

(Ages 8+)

Do Activity #3

“The Effects of
Baptism”

PG: 68-69

AB: 62-63

Bonus Activity

Baptism
Sketchpad Video

Do Activity #4

“Remembering
your Baptism”

PG: 70-71

AB: 64-65

Do Activity #5

“Jesus’ Baptism”

PG: 72-73

AB: 66-67

Do Activity #6

“Baptism
Garment”

PG: 74-75

AB: 68-69

Practice the sign
of the cross
EVERY day.

Practice the basic
Catholic prayers:
Our Father, Hail
Mary, Glory Be.

Practice the Hail
Holy Queen too!

Practice the
Apostles’ Creed.

This prayer is the
focus for last

year of faith
formation.

The Sacrament of Baptism

A. Pope Francis has said that the most important day of our lives is the day we were **baptized**.

So how many of you know what day you were baptized?

1. If you don’t know, you should find out.
2. We should celebrate our baptismal day and mark it as a very important occasion in our lives.
3. That is the day we were born into new life in Christ.

B. Baptism is the Basis for Christian Life

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and as sons of God; we become members made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word” CCC 1213

Let’s begin by simply reviewing the basics of what takes place in Baptism.

- All Sacraments have form and matter. The **Matter** is the physical material used and the form refers to the words that are spoken.
- Matter: Water
- **Form:** The minister (usually a priest) immerses the person being baptized (or pours the water) three times and says, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Why water?- water is cleansing. Remember in *the Sacraments, God uses physical elements to serve as signs that point to the higher realities taking place*. In Baptism the person is cleansed through the removal of all sins from their soul, including the stain of original sin, hence water.
- The physical cleansing is a sign pointing to the spiritual cleansing taking place!
- Baptism also formally brings you into the Church.

Old Baptism is prefigured. Testament

- a. **The Spirit of God** hovers over the primordial **waters**
- b. Noah protects the animals and his family from a flood that will “**cleanse the earth from sinful humanity**, and begin anew through him.”
- c. The Israelites cross the red sea and are “**cleansed of slavery and from the Egyptians.**”
- d. God’s people continually pass from chaos, death, slavery, and sin through **powerful life-giving waters to new life.**

The New Testament

- a. The beginning of Christ’s public ministry starts with **His baptism**. Christ did not need to be baptized but he wanted to serve as a model for all we are called to.
- b. Then at the end of his ministry on earth, in His parting words to His disciples, He commands them to: “**Make DISCIPLES of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**”
- c. he Fruits of Baptism
 1. Baptism is a beautiful gift we have been given.
 - Our Sins are forgiven and freed of the stain of original sin.
 - We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - We are made new creatures in the sight of God and partakers of the divine nature. God actually wants us to share in His nature. The Church fathers wrote, “God became man so that man might become God.” This is a powerful concept.
 - We are made members of the Church and given access to all the other sacraments.
 - We are tasked to share in the mission of the Church.
 - An indelible mark is placed on our souls. In other words we are marked for Christ. We belong to Him! No sin we ever commit can remove this mark.
 2. There is much to ponder and reflect on here. This is the reality of what we are given in Baptism. We may not feel like all these things have come to fruition in our lives. However, this is the beautiful gift freely offered to us. All we have to do is accept this Grace and cooperate with it.