

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor



Sacraments

Our Catholic Tradition

- The three Sacraments of Initiation celebrate membership into the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. (CCC, 1212)
- The Sacraments of Healing help people in need of forgiveness and healing during times of physical and spiritual sickness. (CCC, 1421)
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion celebrate people's commitment to serve God and the community. (CCC, 1534)

Why are the symbols, words, and actions of the Seven Sacraments important in our worship?

Bishops receive the authority to lead, teach, and make holy the Church.



Sacraments of Initiation

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving God, help us answer your call.

“Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the
faithful.” **Psalm 149:1**

All: In Baptism, we receive your call to grow in holiness. We ask you, Jesus, to give us the eyes to see the many ways we can grow deeper in love with you. Amen.

God's Word

Peter wrote a letter to the Christians in the early Church. He told them, “You are a people chosen by God, a people who serve and worship God. You give praise to Jesus for he called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a family, but now you are God's family. You had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” **Based on 1 Peter 2:9-10**



What Do You Wonder?

- How are you chosen by God?
- Why did your parents want you to be baptized?

New Life in God

How does someone become a member of the Catholic Church?

Most people receive new life in God and become members of the Catholic Church when they are baptized as babies. This story is about an adult who found new life in Christ.

Catholic Faith Words

Sacred Chrism perfumed oil used for anointing in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders



Underline the three things that took place when Aunt Kim received three Sacraments in one celebration.

New Life Begins

Steve's family was watching a video of the Easter Vigil celebration. Aunt Kim and the other adults had celebrated three Sacraments in one evening. First, they were baptized. Then, they were confirmed with the anointing of **Sacred Chrism**. Finally, they received Holy Communion.

After Mass, everyone was laughing and hugging Aunt Kim and the others. Steve enjoyed all the excitement. He looked very happy on the video!



Life in the Church

After they saw the video, the family looked at photos. “Look, Steve,” his sister Laura said. “Here are pictures of your Baptism. And here you are on your First Communion day.”

The family noticed some differences between the celebrations. Baby Steve wore a white baptismal gown, but Aunt Kim wore a brown robe before her Baptism and changed into a white one after. Steve received First Communion in second grade. Kim was an adult, and she received the Eucharist on the same day she was baptized.

Still, some things were the same. Steve’s godfather was Aunt Kim’s sponsor, too. Father John had baptized both Steve and Aunt Kim.

Aunt Kim celebrated three Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Sacraments are signs that come from Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus works in and through the Sacraments to give grace, a share in God’s life and work.

➔ **What do you remember most from a First Communion celebration that you’ve seen?**

Share Your Faith

Think Draw a picture to illustrate how your parish celebrates First Communions.

Share your drawing with a small group.



In Baptism, holy water is poured over the person’s head or the person is immersed in water three times, in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Church Membership

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

From the beginning of the Church, the **Sacraments of Initiation** have been an important and necessary part of our faith. Baptism is the first Sacrament we receive. It leads to the other Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and **Eucharist**. Listen to Peter speak about Baptism to a crowd of people who did not know about Jesus.

Catholic Faith Words

Sacraments of Initiation

the three Sacraments that celebrate membership into the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Eucharist the Sacrament in which Jesus shares himself, and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood

Real Presence the teaching that Jesus is really and truly with us in the Eucharist. We receive Jesus in his fullness.

God's Word

Many Are Baptized

On Pentecost, Peter said to the crowd, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit."

Peter told the people that Jesus' promise was meant for everyone. Many of them accepted his message. About 3,000 people were baptized that day. **Based on Acts 2:38-41**






Receiving and Sharing God's Love

In each of the Sacraments of Initiation, you see the actions and hear the words of the minister, who acts in the name of the Holy Trinity. Jesus, the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit, shares with you the love of the Father. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist we honor Christ's **Real Presence** and receive him in Holy Communion.



Underline important words we hear in each Sacrament.

Sacraments of Initiation

Words and Actions	Effects
 <p>Baptism</p>	<p>The priest or deacon pours water on or immerses the person, saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."</p> <p>Removes Original Sin, forgives personal sin, and gives new life in Christ; marks the person as a member of Christ's Body, the Church; unites all Christians</p>
 <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>The bishop or priest lays hands on the person's head and then anoints him or her with Sacred Chrism, saying, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."</p> <p>Seals and completes Baptism; strengthens the person's bond with the Church; unites the person more fully with Christ; strengthens him or her in living the faith</p>
 <p>Eucharist</p>	<p>The priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer, consecrating bread and wine, saying "This is my Body, which will be given up for you.... This is the chalice of my blood... poured out for you and for many." Then he shares Christ's Body and Blood with the Church community.</p> <p>Brings forgiveness of venial sins and an increase of grace; unites all who share the Eucharist into the one Body of Christ</p>

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Connect Your Faith

Show Welcome Write one way your Church family welcomes a new member.

Our Catholic Life

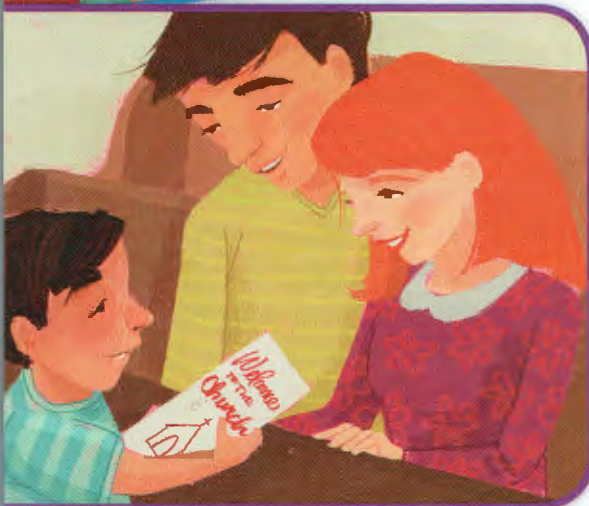
How can you help welcome new members into the Catholic Church?

When a good friend or relative visits your family, or when a baby brother or sister joins your family, you welcome that person. You might have a party. You might make a sign that says “Welcome!” You might show a visitor where to sit at the dinner table.

The people celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation are becoming members of your parish family. You can make new members feel welcome, too. Here are some ways you can let them know that you are glad they have joined the Church:

- In some parishes, babies are baptized at a Sunday Mass. If you are present during one of these celebrations, pay close attention and pray for those being baptized.
- Every year at the Easter Vigil, people join the Catholic Church. They receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Pray for those joining the Church. As a class project, create “Welcome to the Church” cards for them.
- First Communions and Confirmations take place as part of parish life, too. Ask a parish leader for a list of those preparing to receive these Sacraments. Select one name and pray for that person.

➔ **What makes you feel welcome in your parish?**



People of Faith

Saint John the Baptist, first century

Saint John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. An angel came to Saint John's father, Zechariah, to say that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a baby. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, visited Elizabeth when she was pregnant. John grew up to be a preacher. He prepared the way for Jesus by telling people the Good News that God would come to save his People. When Jesus was ready to start his ministry, Saint John baptized him in the River Jordan. Saint John was killed for pointing out the bad things that King Herod was doing.



June 24

Discuss: Talk about a Baptism that you have seen. Who was baptized? What happened?



Learn more about
Saint John the Baptist
at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Helped You Feel Welcome Write your name and the names of three people in your parish who have helped you feel welcome.



 Let Us Pray

Pray with God's Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Read Mark 1:9–11.

Reader 2: Jesus went to the Jordan River from Nazareth.

Reader 3: He was baptized by John.

Reader 4: When he came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down from the sky in the form of a dove.

Leader: Let us pray.

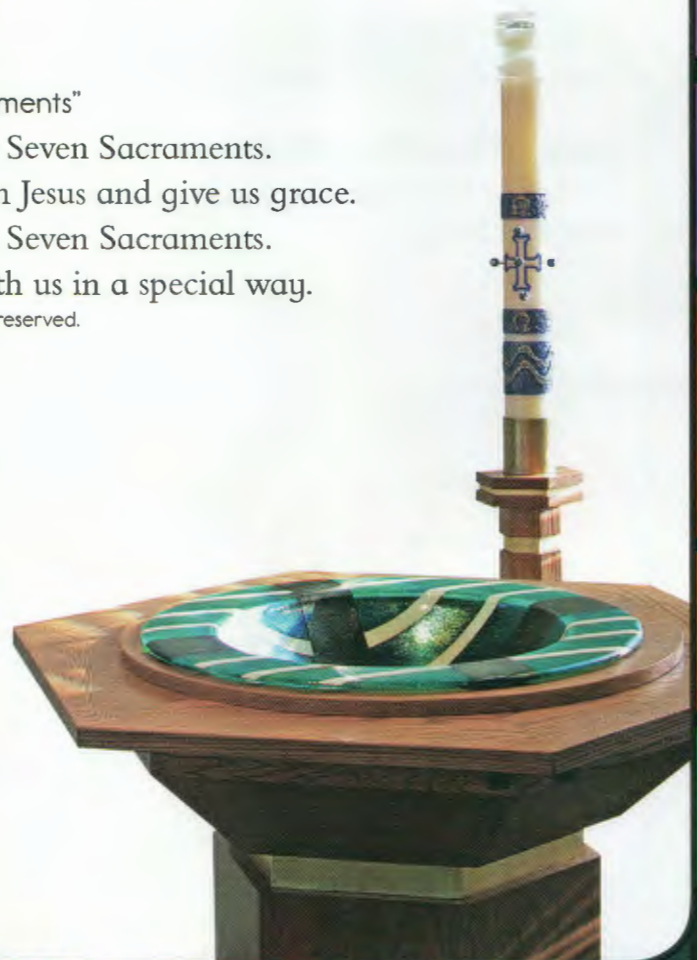
Bow your head as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing "The Seven Sacraments"
The Sacraments, the Seven Sacraments.
Signs that come from Jesus and give us grace.
The Sacraments, the Seven Sacraments.
Signs that God is with us in a special way.

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter discusses the words and actions of the Sacraments of Initiation which celebrate membership into the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

God's Word



Read **1 Peter 2:9–10** to read how we are all part of God's family.

Catholics Believe

- Baptism removes Original Sin, forgives personal sin, and gives new life in Christ. Confirmation seals and completes Baptism.
- In the Eucharist, Jesus shares himself with us, giving us the gift of his Body and Blood.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1212, 1271, 1323 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint John the Baptist who baptized Jesus. Share pictures from your own family Baptisms.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Sacraments of Initiation

Because third-graders are just beginning to form social groups and understand what it means to belong to a community, this is an ideal time for your child to understand the Sacraments of Initiation as the way in which one enters the Church community. While many third-graders will not remember their Baptism, most of them will have celebrated another Sacrament of Christian Initiation, Eucharist, for the first time just last year. Their continued celebration of Eucharist reinforces their participation at the family table.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you think of your Baptism as an event, or the beginning of a relationship?

While many of us think of Baptism as a happy event that happened in our lives or the lives of our children, we often do not see it as a moment that began a life of relationship, much like a wedding. Baptism sets us on a lifetime journey of growing ever more deeply in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. "In Baptism, the Holy Spirit moves us to answer Christ's call to holiness. In Baptism, we are asked to walk by the light of Christ and to trust in his wisdom. We are invited to submit our hearts to Christ with ever deeper love" (USCCA p. 196).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Talk about the ways that your family celebrates new beginnings.
- Ask your child to name some ways he or she can welcome new members of the Church.

LET'S PRAY >>>



John the Baptist, pray for us, that we may continue to live the faith we received at Baptism and share that faith with others. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 16 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

- _____ is the perfumed oil used in some Sacraments.
 Eucharist Baptism Sacred Chrism
- Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation are all Sacraments of _____.
 Initiation Childhood Holiness
- Initiation is a word that means _____.
 faith beginning Church
- Holy Eucharist brings _____.
 resolution Sainthood unity with Christ
- Confirmation strengthens your bond with _____.
 your parents the Church yourself

B Check Understanding Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

- Removes Original Sin
- Signs that come from Jesus and give grace
- Catholics receive the Body and Blood of Christ
- Celebrates membership into the Catholic Church
- Seals and completes Baptism

Column B

- Sacraments
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist

