

Liturgical Living: Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus is on Sunday, January 11th this year. Liturgically, it is the end of the Christmas season, as we return to ordinary time on January 12th.

Through our Baptism, we are called to share in the life and mission of Christ. We are made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ. Through our prayer and sacrifices, our witness to the Truth, and our servant leadership, we are called to make a difference in our world. God chose for us to be born in this time, and He calls us to work to build His Kingdom in the world in which we live.

Today, talk to your children about the significance of the sacrament of baptism, as well as some of the sacred symbolism. On our baptism day we are claimed for Christ, and an indelible mark is placed on our souls! Some of the important points to discuss include:

- **Original sin and the fall of man**
- **Cleansing with water:** just as the Israelites walked through the Red Sea from slavery to freedom, we too were freed from original sin by our baptism
- **The baptismal candle:** the Light of Christ was passed onto them, now they must be the Light of Christ for others
- **Anointing with oil:** they were anointed with both the Oil of the Catechumens and the Sacred Chrism, just as priests, kings and prophets in the Bible ([this article by Bishop Barron](#) so beautifully explains what it means for Catholics to be a priest, prophet and king in our world today; and [this article](#) gives some practical ideas for living this out)

At Mass, we all renew our baptismal promises, but you can also do this at home as a family. This is a great opportunity to recall each of our own baptisms and look back on pictures of the baptismal day for each member of the family.

Here are some family activities for this feast:

- Put the dates of each person's baptism on your new calendar so that you can celebrate when the day comes
- Light the candle from your child's baptism and place it in the center of your dinner table
- Play [this printable Baptism trivia "board game"](#)
- Serve a shell-themed meal, like [spinach and ricotta stuffed shells](#)
- Make this cute [River Jordan dessert](#)

"The key to the renewal of our society is a recovery of the deepest meaning of baptism, to become priestly, prophetic, and kingly people." ~ Bishop Robert Barron