

LITURGICAL LIVING

Series 11: Nov. 5– Nov. 11

Celebrating Baptismal Anniversaries

A good way to incorporate Liturgical Living is to celebrate baptismal anniversaries. The first step is to look up everyone in your family's baptismal anniversaries. You can dig up your baptismal certificates or ask the parish office where you were baptized. If for whatever reason, this is not possible. Say a prayer and pick a day. Add these dates to your calendar and set a reminder for beforehand so you can remember... Trust me, these dates have a way to sneak up on you! Bonus, add in your godchildren's baptismal dates as well! :)

Why celebrate Baptismal Anniversaries?

It is good to recognize and celebrate our baptismal anniversary because baptism is a significant moment in our lives and an incredibly important sacrament that we received! Honoring our family's baptism anniversaries calls attention to one of the most important days in each of our individual faith histories, and it can infuse your home with celebration throughout the year.

"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." With those 18 words, we Catholics become members of our Church, children of God and heirs to the kingdom of heaven. Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. (The other two are Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist). Baptism removes all sin, including original sin, which is the sin we inherit at birth. Most Catholics are baptized as infants, and converts can be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. When parents have their baby baptized, they agree to raise and educate their child in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. Godparents, or sponsors, agree to be good role models for the child. In the Baptismal rite, the priest or deacon pours water over the person's head, a ritual that reminds us that Baptism cleanses us of our sins. How important is Baptism? Quite simply, it is necessary for salvation. As Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5).



How to celebrate?

Have a familial prayer time. You can follow the example below or modify it to what works in your family.

- Everyone sits down and someone lights the baptismal candle (a regular will do).
- **Leader:** Today is the day that you, [name], were baptized. On this day you were welcomed as a Christian by your family, and by the Church. Today we will again sign you with the cross, to remember that you were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us listen to the words of the Scriptures.
- **Reader:** Read a passage from the Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1: 9-11).
- **Leader:** In Baptism we have been filled with the light of Christ. May we walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. May we live each day knowing our true identity as beloved children of God. And when the Lord comes, may we go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom to live with him forever and ever.
- **All:** Amen.
- Invite the group to make the Sign of the Cross on the celebrant's forehead; then invite everyone to sign their own foreheads with holy water.

Celebrate with a special meal or treat selected by the person whose baptismal anniversary it is. Over dinner, try to have a kid-level conversation about some of the themes of baptism. For instance, since the baptized are called to live as lights in the darkness, we might ask everyone to share how they have been a light recently... or ask everyone to share how they see the light of Christ through the person whose baptism anniversary it is.

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Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day in the United States. This is a day to gratefully remember everyone who has served in the military. It is also Remembrance Day in Canada and Australia and Armistice Day in Europe. We celebrate Veteran's Day because on the 11th hour, on the 11th day in the 11th month in 1918, world leaders agreed to end fighting in World War 1 (armistice). This was called, "the war to end all wars" and sadly, we know this was not the case. War still happens today. Here is a special prayer for Veteran's Day:

Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

St. Martin of Tours (11)

November 11 is also the feast of St. Martin of Tours. His feast day was set long before the armistice was signed in 1918. The two coincide but it is no coincidence! He was a soldier and a bishop. St. Martin was born in Hungary in the 4th century. He was a member of the Roman Cavalry. He converted to Christianity as a young man, against the wishes of his pagan parents. Christianity was still legal in Rome at this time but was heavily frowned upon, especially in people of higher status such as higher ranking military personnel.



During his time in the military, he allowed his Christianity to permeate his life. There is a story that there was a blind beggar asking for donations in the name of Christ.

Moved with compassion, he cut his cloak in two with his sword. That night he had a dream of Christ wearing the half cloak he gave away. After his service ended, he was ordained a priest and eventually became a bishop. He served faithfully in this role even if he was reluctant to accept the position.

Sharing your Cloak

A tradition to honor the sharing of Martin's cloak with a beggar is to yourself give clothes to the poor. This is especially a good time to consider your coat closet and other warm clothes as winter nears! There are times when we have more than we need. It is a good time to organize your coat closet and see if you have anything extra that you could give away.

Lantern Walk

There is also a tradition in Europe of people to celebrate this day by making lanterns and going on a lantern walk! Carved beets were the original lantern but a tin can sounds a lot more doable to me! You can make a soup that needs soup like six can soup or chili. Take the cans and make some lanterns. A little planning ahead makes this doable. It is recommended to make the soup (or at least dump out the can contents) the day before.

[\(Online Instructions](#) with images)

