

# Just for Parents

## Today your children learned about Baptism and the Baptism of the Lord

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Today is the last day of the liturgical season of Christmas. It may come as a surprise that our Gospel for today doesn't tell us a story about Jesus' childhood. Instead we hear about how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Today is a good day to think about our own Baptism.



In Baptism, we are connected to a communion/community of saints—our community includes our living faith community and those who have walked faithfully before us.

In Baptism our name is proclaimed to the community, and our beauty as God's children is celebrated.

In Baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross—we are claimed, loved, marked by God as God's own—marked and claimed to love as God loves.

In Baptism, through the profession of faith we say no to sin and yes to life and faith in Jesus.

In Baptism, we are immersed into water as a sign of our dying with Christ, and then rising out of the water into new life with Christ. Christ becomes our source of living water, and we are called to become living water for a thirsty world. Through the waters of

Baptism we are cleansed of our sins and receive the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In Baptism, oil is a sign of being anointed by the Holy Spirit, our spiritual source of strength, protection, and healing.

In Baptism, the candle lit from the Easter (Paschal) candle and given to the newly baptized symbolizes that Christ has enlightened the baptized person, and in Christ those who are baptized become the "light of the world".

In Baptism, the newly baptized are given a white garment, which symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ." The garment is white, reflecting the purity of being cleansed of sin.