

# I Am Baptized

**Objective:** The students will be able to state that the first part of Baptism is saying "no" to Satan and evil and "yes" to Jesus Christ.

## **For the Catechist**

This lesson begins the study of the Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation. **For use in the next lesson, ask the children or their parents the names of all the students' godparents.**

**Satan/Lucifer/The Devil.** The students have some idea of a devil from Halloween costumes if nothing else. Also, they are certainly aware that evil exists in the world. While in recent years the devil has not been a key element in religious education, the story of Lucifer's fall (Revelation 12:9-11), and the story of the Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) are scriptural. In this lesson the children will learn that the first part of Baptism involves renouncing Satan. In the introduction to the lesson is the story of Satan's fall. In the first lesson of this text the children learned that Adam and Eve disobeyed God through the encouragement of the devil in the form of a serpent. They learned that evil and death entered the world. In the third lesson they learned of the evil of killing through the story of Cain and Abel. They were offered these stories to help them understand the importance of renouncing the darkness and accepting Christ as the Light of the World. Since the children will learn that in Baptism they renounce Satan, now it is time to offer the story of Satan's fall. While we don't want to dwell on the devil, certain concepts should be understood:

1. Evil exists and evil spirits are called devils. Their leader is called Satan or Lucifer.
2. Jesus has won the victory over Satan and evil with His death and resurrection.
3. We may be tempted to do wrong, but the Holy Spirit is within us to help us be strong. Prayer and fasting help us grow in strength.

**Parents and godparents.** A God-loving family makes it easier for the child to know Jesus Christ. When parents love their children as God loves all

## **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** "All You Who Have Been Baptized" [For this lesson, and all others, refer to the "Liturgical Prayers According to Jurisdictions" in the section "Introduction to Grade 2" for the correct wording to use in your parish.]

**Introduction:** Discussion of Jesus calling each of us and story of Satan's Fall  
**Need:** small mirror, Icon of St. Michael the Archangel and "Understanding Words about Good and Evil" (provided)

**Read Text Aloud:** Ask the questions on the following pages as text is read aloud

### **Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* My Baptism
- *Group:* Re-enact Baptism
- *Craft:* Thank you Card for Parents and/or Godparents

**Closing:** "We Have Seen the True Light" [Modify words according to the usage of your jurisdiction.]

### **Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:**

Packet I:  
 Packet II:

### **Teaching Pic:**

#S1 Exorcism  
 #S2 Blessing of Water  
 #S3 Anointing with Oil

"His people, they give witness to the love of God. In like manner the Catechist must love children as God has loved. From their own family children will gradually become aware of their belonging to the Christian family. They were brought to membership in the Church by their family. Their family desired that they participate in the salvation and faith they had received from those who brought them to church. Faith is passed on to each generation because of love. We love those who God has brought into our family and desire that they be with us in our Christian family as well.

Although children may not fully understand the significance of "salvation," they can understand the concepts of membership and of family life. Children can also understand the passing on and receiving of a gift. Someday, God willing, these children will pass on the faith to their offspring.

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)*

### **Evil and The Fall**

"Mankind's purpose to lead creation to God was thwarted by succumbing to the desires of material sensation. The world became a prison of constant temptation, through which the 'prince of this world' brings death as the inheritance of the Fall. Individual sin could be seen as a consequence of mortality, which makes man anxious about what he should eat or drink (cf Mt 6:31). In baptism parents can transmit immortal life to their mortal child as a weapon to fight sin" (*LLI* 29).

### **Baptism Establishes the Kingdom**

"Baptism is a gift for both the individual Christian and the whole Church. The person is rescued from the pattern of Adam's disobedience and renewed by Christ's consistent obedience to His Father. God desires more than just the salvation of individuals. He wants the salvation and re-creation of His whole world. Every baptism expresses each one's willingness to do the right as an individual; but it also proclaims the establishment of the kingdom of God in the whole world. Christ gave the Apostles their mission, 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world' (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism is a sign of the presence of God's reign as well as His future glory. We commit ourselves (with our own voices or through our godparents) to this truth by reciting the Creed as our profession of faith and by baptism in the name of the Trinity" (*LLII* 74).

### **Nicene Creed**

"A good example of a creed used to defend the Christian faith is the Nicene Creed. With the rise of Arianism (a heresy which maintained that Christ was a perfect creature created by God the Father), the Church saw the need to devise a statement extracted from Scripture and tradition as a pronouncement against the error. The Council of Nicaea was convened in 325 A.D. to discuss the heresy. The participants formulated a creed which stated in clear terms that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and that He is, 'consubstantial' with the Father. The Greek word, **homoousious**, means *the same nature*" (*SLW* 72).

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

[Gather at icon corner.] *Today we are beginning a very special unit. We'll begin learning about how we became a member of God's people. There was a special hymn sung at our baptism and it goes like this: [Use words of "All You Who Have Been Baptized" according to the usage of your jurisdiction.] Can you try it with me?*

## Introduction

*God has called each of us to renounce Satan and all evil ways. God has called us to say "Yes" to Jesus Christ so that we may work to bring others back to God. You are very important to God. Your parents brought you to be baptized so that you would be freed from the power of sin and become a part of God's family. Today we begin the first of two lessons about your baptism. In order to understand the first part of your baptism, I have to tell you a story.*

*You have heard about the devil and maybe even know some other names—Satan or Lucifer—for the devil. Another word for devil is demon. You may also have heard of hell. Lucifer or Satan is the leader of the demons. Hell is the opposite of heaven. We call heaven "eternal life." [You may wish to use the chart on the visual aid page: Understanding Words about Good and Evil.]*

*I'm going to tell you the story in the Bible about how the devil came to be:*

*In the beginning, before God created anything else, God created angels. They were to be God's helpers. Some of the angels, led by Satan, wanted to be just as important as God. A great fight occurred. Michael the Archangel [Show icon] and the good angels fought against Satan and the bad angels. Satan and the demons lost and were cast down from heaven. When Adam and Eve sinned, they cooperated with Satan. They let evil get into the world. Now many bad things happen on earth. Because of evil, we have death.*

*Only when Jesus came to live with us was death CONQUERED. Jesus Christ trampled down death by death. Now, because we are baptized into Christ, we die to this world that has evil and are reborn into the kingdom of God so we can live forever. At our baptism we are given a guardian angel to help us fight against evil and follow God. At our baptism we say "Yes" to God. We get a glimpse of heaven when we are with God and all who love God. Being united to God is wonderful.*

*Let's read about your baptism.*

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## I Am Baptized

Jesus told His disciples, "You must be born again of water and the Spirit."

Just as we are born into a human family, we must be born into a spiritual family. Human families often are connected by sharing the same home or name. Human families share love.

Spiritual families share the same Church and the name "Christian." Spiritual families share love.

The disciples thought about being "born again" as Jesus said. They knew that Jesus was baptized. Then they knew what He meant. Baptism was the way to be born again.

28 Unit 1: Christ Unit 2: I Am a Christian

### Reading of Text

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).*

*Let's turn to our "Unit Introduction" page. [Have a student read the lesson titles and another the questions at the bottom]. Every time we begin a new unit, we will look at this page to find the questions that will be answered. Do you think you know the answers to any of these questions?*

#### **Spiritual families share love.**

*What does our spiritual family share? (Church, name of Christian, love) Our spiritual family is connected by our faith in Jesus Christ. We are connected by the name "Christian" from the word "Christ." We received the name when we were baptized. We became united to God at Baptism. And we became united to all who share the name "Christian."*

#### **Baptism was the way to be born again.**

*Tell me anything you know about Baptism. [Allow responses.] In this lesson and the next, we will learn about our baptism.*

#### **Your parents and godparents brought you to be baptized.**

*Do any of you know the names of your godparents? [Allow responses.] Your godparents are special. They were chosen to help your parents teach you and raise you up as a Christian.*

#### **He asked, "Do you renounce Satan and evil?"**

*Who is Satan? (The devil)*

#### **Indeed, we do not want to do evil; we want to serve Christ!**

*What are some actions that are evil? (Stealing, killing, lying) What actions show that we serve Christ? (Loving, forgiving, caring).*

#### **... and "Yes" to Jesus Christ.**

*What is the first part of Baptism? (Saying "No" to Satan and evil and "Yes" to Jesus Christ.)*



What was your baptism like? Here is part of what happened.

Your parents and godparents brought you to be baptized. First, Father had to find out if you wanted to serve God or the devil. He asked, "Do you renounce Satan and evil?"

Your godparents spoke for you. They answered, "Yes!"

Father asked, "Do you believe in Christ and promise to serve Him?"

Your godparents answered, "Yes!"

Indeed, we do not want to do evil; we want to serve Christ! The first part of Baptism is saying "No" to Satan and evil and "Yes" to Jesus Christ.

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**You went under water three times.**

*What did Father say when you went under water? (This child is baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)*

[Describe here how Baptism is done in your parish—by immersion or the pouring of water.] *When you went under water, it represented your dying. Why? Because when you are underwater, you cannot breathe; and if you cannot breathe, you cannot live. You died to this world and were born into life everlasting, which means forever with God.*

**You are a follower or disciple of Jesus Christ.** *Now we have two birthdays: the day of our physical birth and the day of our baptism. On your physical birthday, you were born into life on this earth. On the day of your spiritual birth, you were born into life forever with God. Now we have two families: a physical family and a spiritual family.*

**Let's review:** *We learned about the first part of Baptism today. What happens in the first part of Baptism? (We say "No" to Satan and evil and "Yes" to Jesus Christ.) We have two families: a physical family and a spiritual family. What name does our spiritual family share? (Christian) Next week we'll continue to learn about Baptism. Unless you already know, ask your parents the names of your godparents.*

**Activity Tracks**

**Basic:** My Baptism

*Water is a symbol for Baptism as we learned today. Our worksheet asks you to think about how you would look in the baptismal water. You can use crayons or markers. After you're done, we'll fill in the blanks below.*



Next your godparents said the Nicene Creed. Do you know the Creed? It is the statement of our faith. It begins, "I believe in one God."

Then you were brought to the baptismal font. Father blessed the water. Your godparents took off your clothes, and Father held you above the water. "The servant of God is baptized," he sang, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

When he said the name of a person of the Trinity, he placed you under the water. You went under water three times.

When you came out of the water, you were born again. You were born of water and the Holy Spirit. You were united to God and to your Christian family. You became a follower or disciple of Jesus Christ. You became a "Christian."

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When you were baptized, you were covered in water. Draw yourself in the box covered in baptismal water. With your teacher's help, fill in the blanks below.

**My Baptism**

"The servant of God  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leila Marie  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 is baptized in the name of the Father  
 and of the Son and of the  
 Holy Spirit."

**Group:** Re-enact Baptism

*Materials:* Doll with white garment, towel, large basin with water if possible, candle, cross necklace (if that is part of your tradition)

*To help us understand what happened when we were baptized, we'll enact a baptism. We'll need parents, godparents, a priest, and people in the congregation. [Assign roles. Place white garment and candle near baptismal font. Doll can be undressed and wrapped in a towel.] Baptisms begin at the back of the church in the narthex. [Show where narthex will be. Show where congregation should be.]*

*First of all, let's have the parents hold the baby. The parents bring the baby to the church.*

*But then the godparents take over. So, parents, hand the baby to the godparents.*

*First, Father had the parents face the door. Turn around godparents. He asked if the baby wanted to serve God or the devil.*

*He asked "Do you renounce Satan and evil?"*

*The godparents said, "Yes."*

*Then he asked "Do you believe in Christ and promise to serve Him?"*

*And the godparents said "Yes"*

*Then they turned around and recited the Nicene Creed. Let's try it up to that point. [Have "priest" say the words with your help, and cue the godparents. Recite the first phrase of the Nicene Creed.]*

*Now, let's come to the baptismal font. There were a lot of prayers, the baptismal waters were blessed, and then it was time for the baptism. Father took the baby and dunked it under the water three times, once for each member of the Trinity. He said, "The servant of God is baptized, in the name of the Father [immerse] and of the Son [immerse] and of the Holy Spirit [immerse]." Then the baby was dried off and dressed in the robe of glory.*

*And the godparents were given the candle to remind everyone that the person baptized has been filled with the light of Christ. Both the candle and the garment are bright for that reason.*

*Then you received a cross to wear. Let's try the baptism in water. [Cue and help as needed.]*

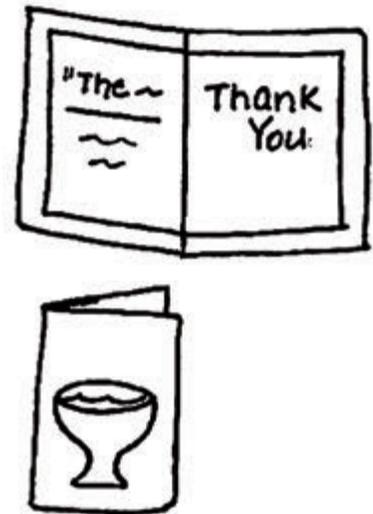
*The congregation sang the baptismal troparion next. Let's sing it together. It is our prayer for this lesson: [Sing "All You Who Have Been Baptized."]*

*This is what we learned about our baptism in today's lesson. There are more parts to the baptism. Next week we'll learn more about the signs of new life: the water, the robe of glory, and the cross. I hope you'll be able to see a baptism one day!*

**Craft:** "Thank You" Card for Parents and/or Godparents

**Materials:** Construction paper, "Thank You" worksheet, markers, glue, scissors, decorating materials

[Have sample ready. You may wish to have the worksheets folded ahead of time.] *Today we learned that our parents and godparents chose to pass on to us the faith they received, faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. They chose to bring us into the life of the Church. They had us baptized into Christ. It is a beautiful gift they gave us. We are now to be with God forever. Let's take time today for our activity to make a thank you card for our parents and/or godparents. On the front you can draw water, or the baptismal font. On the inside is a piece of paper on which is written what Father said as he immersed you in the water. You can write your name in the blank. On the other side you can write a thank you. You might say, "Thank you for baptizing me," or "Thank you for the gift of eternal life," or "Thank you for making me a Christian."* [Pass out the worksheet and have children complete it and cut it out. Help them paste the right side down onto a folded piece of construction paper. Let them decorate the cover.]



**Closing:** [Gather children around icon corner.] *Today we began a unit in which we will learn about how we joined God's people. God's people follow the Light of Christ. We sing a hymn about light during the Divine Liturgy. Do you know which one it is? Here are the words. [Modify words according to your jurisdiction.]*

*We have seen the true light.  
We have received the Heavenly Spirit.  
We have found the true faith,  
worshipping the undivided Trinity  
who has saved us.*

*Because we have been baptized, we sing, "We have seen the true light," which is Christ. His teachings are like "light" in a "dark" world. Sing the hymn with me.*



*St. Michael the Archangel guards the gates of heaven*

To make this an interactive part of your lesson, you may wish to use a blackboard and make two columns entitled good and evil, and let the children help you fill in the words. You may also make a sheet of paper marked with two columns and have slips of papers ready to let the children place in the right columns.

## Good

God

Angels

St. Michael the Archangel

heaven

eternal life

## Evil

demons

Satan or Lucifer

hell

“The servant of God

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is baptized in the name of  
the Father and of  
the Son  
and of the  
Holy Spirit

Fold  
Line