

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students should be able to

- identify Baptism as an encounter with God.
- explain that through this encounter we become a new creation.
- state that we renounce Satan and promise to follow Jesus Christ.
- state that we become a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, when we are baptized.
- explain that through the Mystery of Baptism, we accept the New Covenant.
- identify ways that we can live out our baptismal promise.

For the Catechist

The children have been learning about the Mystery of Baptism each year in this catechetical series. In Pre-K, they learned that through Baptism they became Christians, followers of Christ. In Grade 3, they learned that this Mystery joins them to Christ and makes them members of the Church. This year the emphasis is on their becoming a new creation through the Mystery of Baptism. As a new creation who has put on Christ, the baptized person learns to become like Christ. We who are baptized accept the New Covenant and follow the New Commandment.

Baptism is a true experience of God. Its effects are spiritual and remain unseen. Traditional sacramental theology emphasizes that in the Mysteries it is God who acts, so long as the person is properly disposed. As the person's readiness and desire increase, God works deeper in one's life. This concept is introduced through the idea of a new creation. On the day of our Baptism, our Lord enters our life, and we begin a new life in Christ. Help the children realize that the way we show that we have received our new life is by living out our baptismal promise to follow Jesus Christ in everything that we do.

Materials Needed

Opening and Closing Prayers: Prayer page

Review: Chalk board and chalk (poster board and markers)

Introduction: Pipe cleaners (have one bent in the shape of a star), aluminum can, egg cartons

Worksheets, pencils or pens

The Message: Pens or Pencils

Application: Pencils or pens, The New Testament

Icons and Pictures

Come Bless the Lord: Theophany

Teaching Pics: Holy Baptism (S1-S5)

Websites—Each of these sites has a brief biography of saints listed by name or feast. Many of the saints on the Eastern site have accompanying icons which can be downloaded or e-mailed.

Eastern Saints: www.goarch.org/en/chapel/search.asp

Western Saints: www.saintpatrickdc.org/ss/ss-index.htm

Connections

1. Opening Prayer

(2 minutes)

Materials: Prayer Page

Invite the class to stand by the Theophany icon and remain silent for a few seconds before making the sign of the cross.

- Pray or sing "All You Who Have...."

2. Review

(2 minutes)

Materials: New Testament

Write the words New Covenant on the board. Have the students write the words that identify the New Covenant. Ask: *What does the New Covenant call us to do?* (To love one another as God loves us)

3. Introduction (*Recycled Materials*)

(5 minutes)

Materials: Pipe cleaners (have one bent in the shape of a star), aluminum can, egg cartons.

Pass one pipe cleaner to each student and ask him or her to refashion it as he or she wishes. Have each student explain what was made and why. [Place the creations on display for the class session.]

Continue by holding up the following items and asking what useful item can be made from it: aluminum can (can be used as a pencil container); egg cartons (can be connected to form a trash can). After other suggestions, ask:

- *Why do we refashion some objects into something else?*
- *Do they continue to be useful?*
- *What are some things that our communities are asking us to recycle instead of throwing away?*
- *What do they do with these items at recycle plants?* (They use a lot of water to change the items into something else.)

Connect this idea about becoming new to the way God makes us new through the Mystery of Baptism. Start by looking at the christening picture on page 7 in the student book.

Notes for the lesson:

(Use this space to write helpful hints to use each year)

Alternate: Write the following terms on a paper or on the board: Recycle, Create. Tell the students to list as many things as they can think of that get recycled. Then have them list what can be created from these items. End with a discussion about the reason we recycle: to create something new from something that gets changed through a special process.

The Message

4. Baptismal Day

(8 minutes)

a) Ask the students what is happening in the picture.

Supplementary Activity:

Ask: *Do you have any pictures of your baptismal day?*

[Ask the students to bring in one baptismal picture next week, and let them identify their godparents and anyone else in the picture. Place the pictures on display for a week.]

b) Read the next three paragraphs aloud or silently.

Discuss: *Does anyone remember how you met your good friend? What are some good things you have learned from new friends?* [Be prepared to stop any discussion about questionable activities they learned from friends.]

Let's sit quietly for a few seconds to thank God for our Baptism.

Supplementary Activity:

(Activity 1 on the back of the unit page) Write the question for this lesson on the board or on a poster board: *What do we promise on the day of our Baptism?* Write the following answers after you read them in the text:

1. To renounce Satan.
2. To follow Jesus Christ always.
3. To be a member of the Church.

2

Baptism: The Lord Enters Our Life

What do we promise on the day of our Baptism?



Baptismal Day
Meeting someone new is an exciting experience. We are excited because we get to know another person who might become a good friend. Do you remember the day you met someone who became a good friend?

Sometimes we like to meet people because they help us learn how to do something different. For example, a new boy who moves into the neighborhood might know how to skateboard and offer to teach you, or maybe

a new girl in school could help you learn how to play a song on the piano.

We can think of our Baptism as the day we personally met someone very important in our lives. That is the day the Lord entered our life. Because of this encounter or meeting, we became a new person. The Lord did more than just teach us something new as our friends do. Through the Mystery of Baptism we became a new creation!

Be the God's People: Grade 5

Unit 1: We Have Been Called by God 7

Background Reading:

(History of Mysteries of Initiation)

"The Mysteries of Christian Initiation practiced in Eastern Catholic Churches have their roots in earliest Christianity. However . . . you will discover that the mysteries are as significant and relevant today as they were nearly two thousand years ago. The mystery of God's love for us in Christ Jesus brings life to what would otherwise be a barren world. The Byzantine Rites of Initiation celebrate this profound mystery" (*NLT* 3).

5. A New Creation

(8 minutes)

a) Have the students read the first 3 paragraphs. Ask: *What does it mean we are created in the image and likeness of God?* (There is something god-like in us.) *Who did God send to help us learn how to live?* (Jesus) *Because of Jesus what no longer has a final say in our lives?* (Sin and death)

b) Divide the class into two groups: One group reads what the priest says, the other what the candidate or sponsor replies. The narration parts should be read by the catechist.

c) Have the students read the final response again as a group.

Supplementary Activity:

Materials: Blessed water, white cloth (baptismal dress if possible), candle, cross and chain, worksheet at the end of the lesson

Use the worksheet at the end of this lesson. Have the students divide into groups of four. One person from each group learns about one symbol and teaches the other students in their group. Then have volunteers teach the whole class—tell them to display the symbol as they talk.

Supplementary Activity:

Arrange to have the students enter the church to read this section of the ceremony. Have them start with their backs to the Holy Place, and then face the Holy Place. Include the Nicene Creed that is on the prayer page in this lesson.

Arrange for the students to attend a baptismal ceremony or to view a video of a Baptism any time throughout the year. In advance, tell them to look for the ways we hear and see that the Lord enters our life during Baptism. Afterwards have them share what they saw and heard. [Use a family video (if possible) or ask parents if they have a video of a Baptism.]

Background Reading:

(Image and Likeness)

"Many Fathers of the Church used 'image' and 'likeness' to help describe our relationship with God. For them, 'image' designated that indestructible similarity to God that is at the heart of our nature. These Fathers saw this image in many aspects of the human person, including our freedom, our rationality, our dominion over the world, and our immortality. Some Eastern Christians in particular have looked to our creation as a community ('male and female He created them') as reflecting the Trinitarian essence of God. Still others have seen the entire human person as like God: body, emotions and intellect.

For the Fathers, the word 'likeness' designated our union with God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. They saw this harmony with God illustrated in Genesis by the description of Adam and Eve enjoying fellowship with God in the garden. In their view image and likeness are complementary. Made in God's image, we are free; and as free, we affirm our likeness in union with God. However, Adam sinned and chose not to be like God.' He lost the likeness in us and marred the image. The image of God in us remains always as the basis for restoring friendship with God and for destined union with Him" (LLI 25).



6. Keeping Our Baptismal Promise

(6 minutes)

Have the children read the paragraphs; then ask:

- *What are the two most important gifts given to us on the day of our Baptism?* (Our relationship with Jesus and our membership in the Church)
- *How are we expected to behave now that we are part of the New Covenant?* (We are to live out our life by following Jesus in everything we do.)
- *Think of one way your being here in class today shows that you are living the way Jesus wants.* (We are learning about Him.)
- *What are some other ways that show that you are living the way Jesus wants?*

Supplementary Activity:

Materials: Construction paper or felt squares, markers, heavy cardboard, scissors, glue, ribbons or yarn, prayer page

Have the children make banners that proclaim: "All you who have . . ." Cut a strip of cardboard to glue on the back of the top of the banner. Glue the ends of a piece of ribbon or yarn (at least 5 inches) to both ends of the cardboard to let the banner hang. If possible, have the students parade around the room or even the hallways as they sing "All you ..." Place the banners around the room or have the students take them home to hang in their house.

7. Let us remember that...

(3 minutes)

After they complete the reading, ask: *Do any of you know the name of the saint for whom you were named?*

Supplementary Activity:

Have books of saints and their stories. Let the children look for their saint and read the information. If there is a computer in your class, look up the saint's name on the following:

Eastern Saints (includes icons):

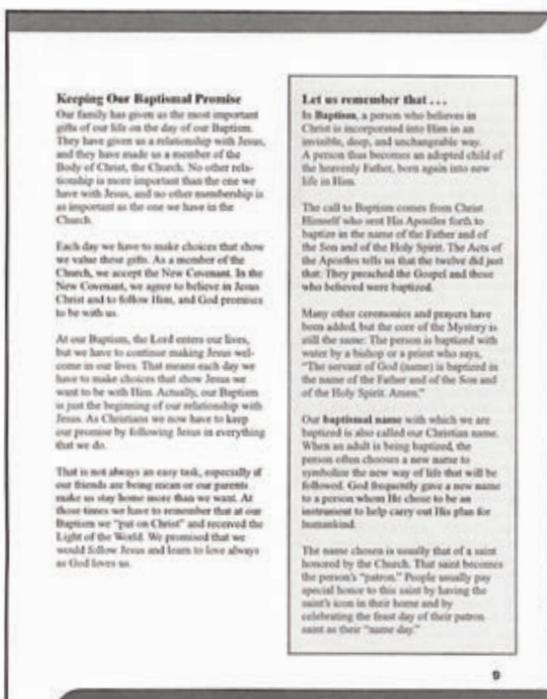
www.goarch.org/en/chapel/search

Western Saints:

www.saintpatrickdc.org/ss
Share the information.

Supplementary Activity:

(Activity 2 on the back of the unit page) Have the students make note cards to be used for review.



Background Reading:

(Our New Life in the Trinity)

Baptism

"Baptism admits the Christian into the life of the Trinity. It also makes a person a member of the Church. These two passages—the first from the limitations of our natural life into the divine life, and the second from selfish individuality into the Body of Christ, which is the Church (Col 1:18)—are inseparable. Authentic Christian faith and participation in the divine life presume membership in the Church and participation in a believing community. Life in the Trinity is real. We have truly become children of the Father; Christ is our brother; the Spirit fills our lives. This makes a real difference in how we live and act and in how we relate to others" (LLI 73).

Application

9. Heroes of Eastern Christianity (Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga) [Saint Volodymyr and Saint Olha] (10 minutes)

Read aloud or silently the first three paragraphs in the story. Ask: *Do you think Saint Vladimir's grandmother could have had an influence on him? Do your grandparents have an influence on you? How?* Note that choices that are made can affect future generations—even our relatives that we may never meet.

Complete the reading on this page and have the students write their answers for the "What do you think?" section.

Optional Activity 1 (Life of Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga)

Materials: White paper, construction paper, glue, scissors, copy of the icon.

Have the students write a summary about the lives of Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga. Paste a copy of the icon on a sheet of construction paper, and under it paste the summary. Display this page in the classroom or on a church bulletin board. Also, the page can be laminated and placed in a notebook or folder that can be called *Our Book of Christian Heroes*.

Optional Activity 1 (Your Questions)

Have the students work in groups as they answer the following questions:

- *What questions would you have asked Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga if you could have talked to them when they were alive?*
- *What do you think they would have answered?*

Let the students share their answers with the entire class.

Background Information (Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga)

Rejoice in spirit, O lands of Rus, venerating the memory of the God-wise Olha. For having as her helper the most holy Theotokos, she—together with the wonder-workers and martyrs—prays unceasingly to Christ, in order to deliver from misfortune and sorrow those who with faith praise her and keep her sacred memory (Vespers Sticheron for July 11).

Kyiv became the mother of all the cities of your kingdom, O great Volodymyr. Upon all the altars throughout your domain Christ enthroned Himself with the Father and the Holy Spirit, because of your efforts and those of your grandmother Olha. For this your people glorify you, our enlightener and swift intercessor. Together with you we implore Christ for peace for the nation and for the salvation of our souls (Vespers Sticheron for July 15).

Heroes of Eastern Christianity

Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga
We look to the saints to see how lives are changed when we are baptized. One good example is Saint Vladimir (Volodymyr) who lived from 955-1015.



Vladimir was born into a royal family from Scandinavia. His great-grandfather is recognized as the traditional founder of the Kievan state. Vladimir's family and many other people in Scandinavia followed a pagan religion that did not condemn fighting, killing, and other immoral activities, and this is the religion that Vladimir's family practiced in Kievan Rus'.

But that changed when Vladimir's grandmother, Saint Olga (Olha), became a Christian and tried to introduce Christianity to the Kievan people. At her request missionaries were sent to preach the Good News. It is said that her conversion hinted at what was to come for Vladimir and the Kievan people.

Problems between Vladimir and his brothers caused him to leave Kiev and return to Scandinavia. Within two years, Vladimir returned victoriously over his brothers. For the next nine years, Vladimir continued in his pagan ways, but at the same time Christianity was being accepted by more people throughout the land.

In 988 Vladimir was converted to Christianity. He declared Christianity an accepted religion, and the people were allowed to practice their beliefs openly. Vladimir changed dramatically after he became a Christian. He destroyed the pagan statues and idols that he had worshiped as a pagan. Now he encouraged the Christian missionaries and even preached to the people.

Missionaries from Kiev (Kyiv) spread Christianity throughout Ukraine, Russia and the lands it would settle. Vladimir's decision for Christ changed the life of millions in these countries.

After his Baptism, Saint Vladimir became a new person. Now he was against violence so much that he was even reluctant to condemn to death murderers and robbers. He believed that all killing, even in the name of the state, was against God's commandment. Rather than taking things from people as he had done in his past, he now became known for his generous almsgiving. Saint Vladimir's life shows us that once the Lord enters our life in Baptism, we are to live by following the New Commandment of love even if we never lived this way before.

What do you think?

1. We learned how much Saint Vladimir showed his love for God and other people after he was baptized. List two ways that show your love for God and other people.

2. Now think of one thing you do that is not showing your love. Write a way you can change this behavior.

10

9. Action Plan (8 minutes)

Use this page to help the students think about the wonderful experience of their Baptism. Help them try to recreate the support from family and friends who were present that day.

Before the students begin completing this page, ask: Have you ever participated in something or received an award and your family was there? [Let them share.] *Now we are going to try to remember how everyone was there for us on the day of our Baptism. For those of you who were babies, you will need to ask your parents to help you complete this page. Maybe you can remember by looking at pictures. Now think of a way you can thank your parents and your godparents for giving you the greatest gifts ever!*

10. Summary (5 minutes)

Turn to your New Testament: Romans 6:3-11 (this scriptural passage is read during the baptismal ceremony) and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Divide into two groups—each group will read and discuss one scriptural passage.

Then have everyone come together to share the reading and their explanation of it.

Possible question about Romans 6:3-11:

With whom will we live now that we are baptized? (Christ, verse 8)

Possible question about Corinthian passage:

What do we become in Christ? (A new creation)

11. Closing Prayer (4 Minutes)

(Have the students read their prayers from the Action Plan section... or Pray the Nicene Creed (prayer page at the end of this lesson).

For next week: Tell the students to ask their parents for the date of their Baptism and Chrismation

<i>My Baptism</i>	Action Plan
<p>1. Remembering our baptismal day lets us think about the people who gave us our greatest gifts, our relationship with Jesus Christ and our membership in the Church. On the next few lines, write the names of some of the people who were at your Baptism.</p> <p><i>Their parents, godparents, and other relatives</i> _____</p> <p>[Suggest that they look through pictures to add more names.] _____</p>	
<p>2. What are some ways that you can thank these people for giving you the greatest gifts?</p> <p><i>(Thank their parents after class, call the relatives, write thank-you notes.)</i> _____</p>	
<p>3. On the next few lines, write some gifts you have received because you are baptized. (One example is you are able to receive Holy Communion.)</p> <p>Gifts that I have received through Baptism: _____</p> <p><i>I am a member of the Church; I can receive the other Mysteries; I know that God is always with me</i> _____</p>	
<p>4. Now write a prayer that honors your godparents and your parents to show that you are grateful to them for giving you these gifts through the Mystery of Baptism.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	

Background Reading (The Role of Godparents)

"Parents or the Christian home, the 'domestic Church,' is helped in its catechetical ministry by representatives of the 'Targe Church,' the Christian community. By receiving the newly christened child into their arms during the Baptismal ceremony, godparents assume responsibility for the upbringing in the faith and in the practice of Christian life of their godchild. The spiritual care, initiation into the sacramental life of the Church, and support in achieving maturity in liturgical and prayer life of their godchild is the essence of their specific calling. They open up the Church for the newly baptized as a spiritual family in Christ, experiencing this reality more deeply in a special way, that is, on the level of spiritual parenthood" (UCD 51-52).

THE MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

All of You

All of you, who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; who rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is enthroned at the right hand of the Father; who will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

THE ROMANIAN GREEK CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CANTON

All of You

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the
Father before all ages:

Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one essence
with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was
buried.

The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended
into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come
again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; of whose
kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from
the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

I expect the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

THE RUTHENIAN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN PROVINCE

All of You

All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, alleluia!
(3 times)

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of
the Father before all ages. Light of light, true God of true God, begotten,
not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things
were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was
incarnate from the Holy Spirit and Mary the Virgin, and became man.
He was also crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was
buried. And He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.
And He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and
of His kingdom there will be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from
the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, Who spoke through the Prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ST. JOSAPHAT

All of You

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ. Alleluia.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages.

Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and he suffered and was buried.

On the third day he rose according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified; who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

Amen.

THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SYNOD

All of You

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ. Alleluia.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Mystery of Baptism

Our Church gives us many symbols of our new life to show that we have become a new creation at our baptism.

Blessed Water: Through the blessed water our sins are destroyed. Through the blessed water God enters our lives and makes us new. We are one with Jesus Christ and with all other baptized Christians. Now we are members of the Body of Christ, the Church.



Saint John Chrysostom, one of our Church Fathers, compares our being placed in the water to Jesus being placed in the tomb: "Our head is plunged in the water as though in a tomb. The old man is buried and completely drowned. When we emerge from this water, the new man is risen from the dead."



White Garment: After the baptized person is taken from the water, he or she is clothed in a white garment that is a sign of being clothed with the life of Christ.

Lighted Candle: The lighted candle is given to the baptized person or to the godparents to show that the Church has passed on the Light of Christ through the Mystery of Baptism. With the lighted candle, the godparents and baptized person follow the priest in a procession around the icon table. To announce our new creation, we sing, "All you who have ..."



Cross: The baptized person is given a cross to wear to show that he or she believes in Jesus Christ.

