

Welcome to God's Family



Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 9, Kindergarten

Lesson 9 Goal

- Your child will learn about Baptism as a welcoming to God's family, the Church.

Key Points

- When we are baptized, we become part of God's family, the Church.
- A baptismal candle, special oil called Sacred Chrism, a white garment, and especially the pouring of water are all things we see when someone is baptized.



Parent Reflection

At our Baptism, we become joined with Jesus Christ as we share in his life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. When we are baptized, we die to sin, are buried with Christ, and are raised up to live a new life in Christ (CCC, 1210–1284; Romans 6:1–4).

The signs of Baptism include water, oil, a white garment, and light. The individual being baptized is immersed in water (or water is poured over his or her head) with the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Rite of Baptism). The baptized is then anointed with consecrated oil, called Chrism. This signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit and the reality that all of us who have put on Christ in Baptism share in his work as Priest, Prophet, and King. A white garment is placed on the newly baptized, signifying the truth that he or she has put on Christ and is now free from the stain of sin. A baptismal candle is lit from the Easter candle (which represents Christ), showing that the newly baptized has received the light of Christ and is welcomed into the Church to participate with her in being the "light of the world."

As members of the Body of Christ, we are not only mysteriously connected with the Church on Earth, but also with those who have gone before us (including the saints and our deceased loved ones). Not even death can separate God's family from one another!

Reflection Question

What does my Baptism mean to me today?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- ☐ Family Activity Sheet
- ☐ crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ☐ glitter (optional)
- ☐ a photo or photos of your child's baptism
- ☐ Activity Master #8

- ☐ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- ☐ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Masters #2 and #8 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: "Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God."

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, "Did you know that when people are baptized, they become part of God's family? We sometimes call God's family the Church. We don't mean just the building we call 'church'; instead, we mean all the people in the world who are Christians."

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Say: "Let's pray today for everyone who is part of the Church, part of God's family. We can pray for them by name. You can call out a name of someone who is part of God's family and together we will say, 'Lord, hear our prayer.'"

Child: I pray for _____.

Together: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Allow your child to name several people to pray for. Conclude with these or similar words:

"Jesus, we thank you for blessing and caring for all the people we love and all the people in the world. Amen."

Discovering

The Baptism of Jesus. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus' baptism.

Ask your child, "Do you remember when you were baptized?"

Show your child photos of his or her baptism. Point out some of the symbols of Baptism, such as the baptismal candle, anointing with Sacred Chrism, the white garment, and especially the pouring of or immersion in water.

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the "Ask Me!" questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. We Become a Part of God's Family, the Church! Turn to the drawing in the main activ-

ity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. My Baptism Banner. Help your child complete Activity Master #8. Then have your child color the activity master and decorate it with glitter. Display the banner in your home.

3. The Communion of Saints: Blessed (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta. Show your child the picture of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

► “What beautiful things can you do for God?”

► “How did Blessed Mother Teresa see all people?” (*As God’s children; as part of God’s family*)

Have your child write and draw about Blessed Mother Teresa using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Dear God, at our baptism, we were washed with water and dressed in white to start anew as your children! Our candles show that we are lights in the world! We are a part of your family. Help us always live as your children. Amen.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Everybody in God’s Family

Teresa was a religious sister. She loved God and spent her life helping others. Teresa saw all people as part of the family of God. And because they were God’s children, they deserved to be treated with respect and love.

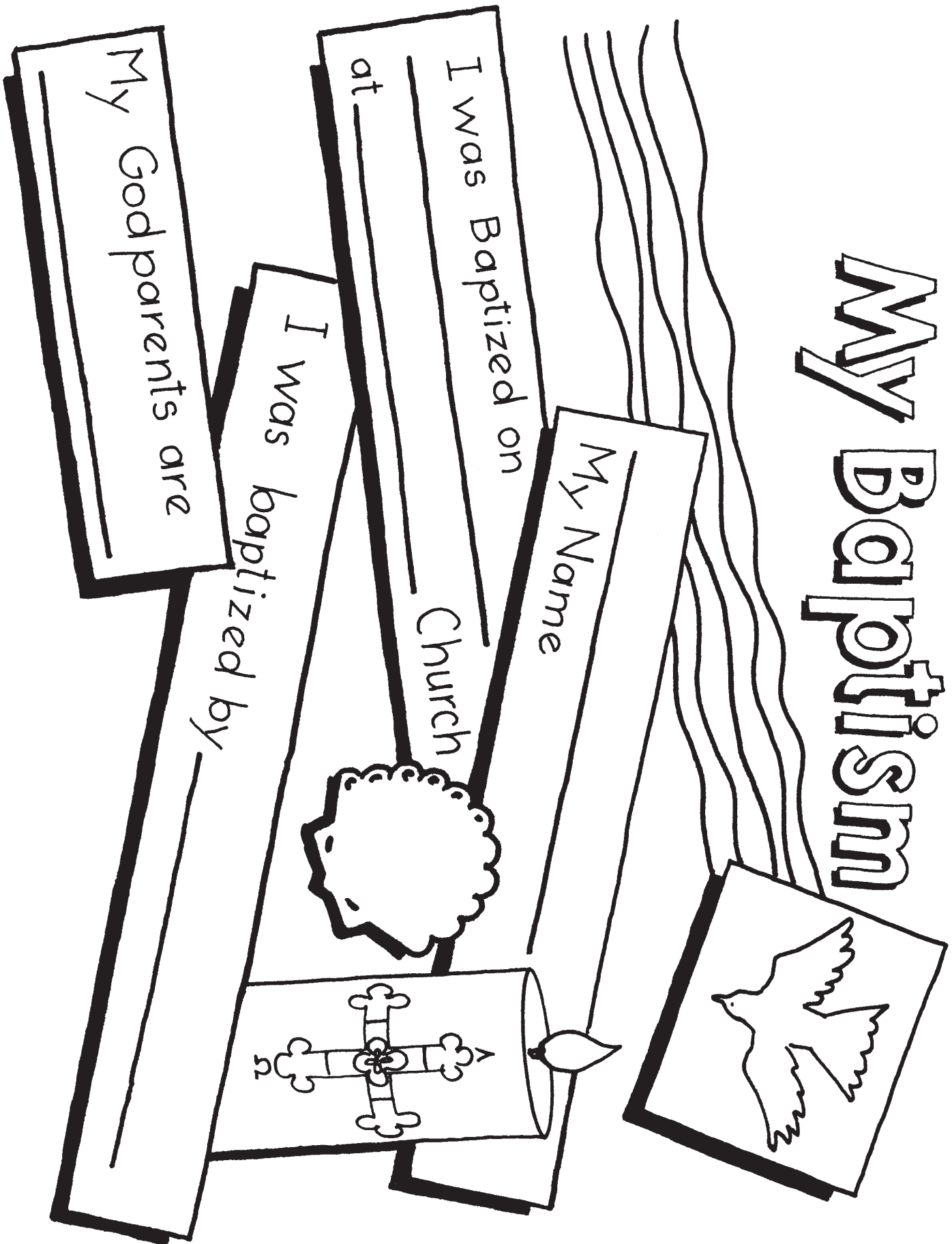
Teresa helped people who had no homes or food. She cared for people who were dying and had no family to be with them. Teresa found places for people who were very sick but

couldn’t go to hospitals. Teresa worked with others to make homes for tiny babies who had no one else to take care of them.

She tried to teach others that even the poorest people in the world were part of God’s family. Teresa said, “God is close to you, he is with you. Just keep the lamp burning and you will always see him.”

My Baptism

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My Name _____

I was Baptized on _____
at _____ Church

I was baptized by _____

My Godparents are _____

DRAW



**Saint
Teresa of
Calcutta,
pray for us!**