

Diving Deeper

- > What traditions you have experienced in your life that have given you a sense of belonging?
- Water is an essential element for Baptism, the sacrament of new life, and is an essential element for human life. Why do you think Christians use water for Baptism?
- When was a time that you experienced a transformation? It could be a big or small change. What was your experience? Baptism represents dying to the old self and rising to new life. In Baptism, Christians believe that we are transformed and made new in Christ. What does it mean to be "made new" or "transformed"?
- Being part of a family or any group involves certain privileges and responsibilities. When we are baptized, we join God's family, take a minute and think about the responsibilities and privileges that come with such a gift.

Go Forth

Interview your Godparents or family that was at your baptism. Invite them to share any memories they can remember from the ceremony.

Activity for Large Groups (10+)

Read the story of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17). Note that this occurs before Jesus begins his public ministry. The Gospel says "a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Jesus and all those around heard these words of encouragement before Jesus embarks on his public mission. Why are these words so important? Where do you find encouragement and belonging as you go about your life?



Activity for Small Groups (4-9)

Attend a Baptism at your parish. Take note of the actions, symbols and words that most move you. Discuss how this makes you feel about your own Baptism and sense of belonging to the family of God.

Get More

- Word on Fire's Bishop Robert Barron on <u>Baptism</u>
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church <u>1213-1284</u>
- Saint Dominic Panama City

