

Chapter 4 ***God's Children***

We are God's children now. 1 *John* 3:2

To the Parents:

In chapter 4 your child learned the following:

- God is our heavenly Father.
- In Baptism our sins are forgiven.
- In Baptism we become children of God and receive God's grace.

When we experience a baptism in the parish, it is clear why it has been called the "sacrament of belonging." We see that those who are baptized are called by God to join with others in the Christian community and to go forth as the disciples of Jesus. Promises are made: to reject sin and to accept the faith of the Church. When infants are baptized, parents and godparents speak for them. Older children and adults participate fully in preparing for and celebrating their own baptisms. All the baptized are surrounded by the support of the Catholic Christian community in living out their baptismal promises.

Water, oil, and light are significant signs of God's presence in the baptismal rite. The waters of Baptism recall the death and resurrection of Jesus, as those to be baptized die to sin and rise to new life of faith in Jesus. The oil, or chrism, strengthens and renews the baptismal promises. Burning candles signify the light of Jesus Christ that now shines forth in the lives of the baptized.

**With Your Child:**

1. Look at a family picture album that has pictures of his or her baptism and tell him or her what that day was like for you and for friends and family.
2. At a family meal, light a candle. Talk about Baptism. Share stories. Talk about how you and your family can show the light of Christ.
3. Together read the story of Saint Rose of Lima on the Review and explore page. Look for ways to imitate her example.