

# SESSION 1

Frost Friday Felicitations

Hope you are all doing well and staying warm-I am sure looking forward to spring!!!!

It is time to start preparing for the celebration of Confirmation.

This week we will begin with a video that reviews the sacrament of Confirmation:

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/confirmation-why-were-confirmed>

The sacrament of confirmation and the sacrament of baptism are closely linked. Along with the celebration of First Communion they are the three sacraments of initiation. As we prepare for confirmation we will explore the symbols of baptism and unwrap what they meant for us then and now. Please watch the following video about the sacrament of baptism:

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/baptism>

Please find below a pamphlet to work through with your child. This pamphlet explores the first symbol of baptism-water and what it means. Please take the time to discuss the questions found on the last page of the pamphlet.

## Session 1



## Baptized with Water

We are going to explore the relationship between our Baptism and Confirmation. In this session we reflect on the role of water in our Baptism.

The sacrament of baptism can be celebrated in two ways.



1. **Immersion**- an older child or person who is baptized by immersion steps into the bottom part of our baptismal font. They are plunged under the water three times (the Trinitarian formula) while the priest says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." A baby can also be baptized by immersion, but they are small enough to be immersed in the top part of our baptismal font.



2. **Pouring-** in this method, water is poured over the head while the Trinitarian formula is pronounced.

The next time you come to church have a close look at the baptismal font and see which part is used for immersion and which is used for pouring.

The newly baptized emerges from the water, aware of water's power to cleanse and its potential to destroy.

The Goals of this session are as follows:

1. Become aware that God speaks to us in the actions of sacramental ritual.
2. Gain an understanding of why water is used in baptism.
3. Be introduced to confirmation as a sacrament in which God strengthens us for the life to which we are called at baptism: life at the Eucharistic table and in the world.



Let's talk about water and why water is the symbol we are focused on. What does water say to you about God?

1. God is refreshing like water.
2. God quenches my thirst like water.

3. Water gives life-so does God.
4. Water makes plants grow-God helps me grow.
5. Water can destroy things like in a flood – God can destroy sin.

#### Water and Baptism.

When you were younger your family asked for you to be baptized. You and your family came to the church. Probably there were other families there with children to be baptized. There were also people from your parish present-a priest or deacon. If you were baptized during Sunday liturgy, there were probably many people.

During your baptism you were immersed in water or maybe water was poured over your head. If you have pictures from your baptism have a look at them. How did you look? Did you cry? How did your parents look? Were they happy? Who was at your baptism? Who were your God parents?



At the time of your baptism the Church, the Christian community, chose water. Why do you think the church uses water at baptism?

1. The Church wants us to know that baptism, like water, gives us life.
2. Water is necessary for life and baptism is necessary for life in Christ.
3. Too much water kills plants or people; in baptism we are not destroyed but sin is.

#### **Water is used as a sign of the life that God has given to us and it is used as a sign of our new life in Christ.**

Baptism changes us forever. It draws us into God's life in a new way. All baptized people share this amazing life in God. St. Paul wrote that baptism takes away all distinctions between believers. He said "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28)

During your baptism you promised (if you were a baby your parent's promised for you) to live out Baptismal Promises. On page ten of your book you will find these Baptismal promises. Talk about some of the ways you are living these out.

During Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday we renew our baptismal promises. This is our opportunity to recall the promises that were made in baptism. At the beginning of the Confirmation rite you will be asked to renew your baptismal promises. This time you will be old enough to speak for yourselves.



In the eyes of God we are all equal members of God's family. Each of us is called to live a Christian lifestyle that reflects our unity and equality.

We are not called to live without help. How do our families help us to live as members of God's family?

1. Our families help us by praying with us, teaching us how to care for others as Jesus does, going to church together.
2. The parish helps us by gathering every Sunday so that we can learn how to live as members of God's family.
3. The parish leaders teach by example and often by being involved at our school or at religious education programs at the parish.
4. The parish community helps by preparing us for confirmation, a sacrament that helps us live as members of God's family.

**Our Church's liturgy helps us to remember that our new life in baptism lasts forever. During our liturgy we are reminded that our baptism has changed us forever.**

The Church uses water at times other than baptism. Can you think of some of these times?

1. The baptismal font at the entrance of the church and the holy water holders at the doors of the church.
2. The sprinkling rite during the Easter Vigil and throughout the Easter season.
3. The sprinkling of the casket with holy water at a funeral.



Holy water is water that has been blessed. Did you know that you should not pour holy water down the sink. If you have holy water that you need to dispose of, you can pour it out onto the ground. We have a special sink in the sacristy where we pour out the holy water. This sink is called the sacrarium. In Catholicism, holy water, as well as water used during the washing of the priest's hands at mass, is not allowed to be disposed of in regular plumbing. Roman Catholic churches will usually have a special basin (Sacrarium) that leads directly into the ground for proper disposal. A hinged lid is kept over the holy water basin to distinguish it from a regular sink basin, which is often just beside it. Do you remember seeing this sink on your church tour?

1. In your own words say why water is used in the sacrament of baptism.
2. Name three times that water is used in Church besides at baptism.
3. How does being baptized change you?

Have a wonderful weekend!

Raylene