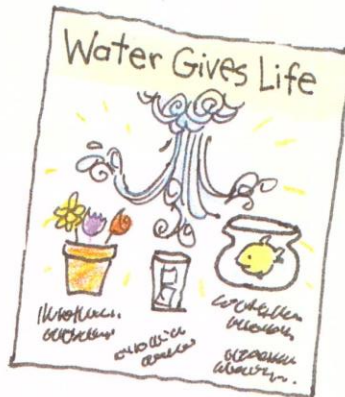


Family Page



In this week's gospel, Jesus speaks of the water that gives eternal life. Our first thought when we hear this passage is the water of baptism, which cleanses us from original sin and prepares us for the Christian life. Since the children in your family were probably infants when they were baptized, it would be a good time to have the whole family recall their baptismal promises in preparation for the renewal that is part of the Easter Vigil liturgy. Some suggestions follow.

1 Before your celebration, make a poster to show the things in our world that get life from water. Across the top of the poster write, WATER GIVES LIFE. Then draw a fountain (see illustration). Cut out or draw pictures of things that need water and place them beneath the fountain. Leave some room at the bottom of the poster.



2 Renew the promises as listed below.

3 Now, at the bottom of your poster, have each member of the family write a few words thanking God for the waters of baptism that have given you eternal life.



Baptismal Promises
(Begin by reading Matthew 3:13-17.)

Leader: Do you reject the devil and all the devil's works and promises?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe all that the holy Catholic Church teaches?

All: I do.

Leader: As you renew your promises, what do you ask of the Church?

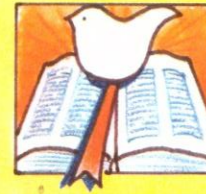
All: Faith and love.

Leader: Will you keep God's two great commandments: love God and love one another?

All: I will.

Leader: Let us thank God for the gift of baptism.

All: Thank you, God, for the water that brings eternal life.



explaining GOD'S WORD

Third Sunday of Lent (A) • John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 • March 12, 2023

What's Happening?

Do you know why the deacon is pouring water over the baby's head? Read the bulletin to learn more about Jesus and water.



The Woman at the Well

Think about water! What does it mean to you? Could you live without water? What would our world be like?

Water makes the gardens grow, giving us food to eat and lovely flowers to enjoy. We use water when we cook. We water the lawn to make the grass grow. In a warm, sudsy bath, water makes you clean and fresh. On a hot summer day, water cools you off and quenches your thirst. Water gives life to all things and fills the lakes and rivers with fish for catching and eating. Without water, the world would be like a desert, all dry and sandy. In this week's gospel story, Jesus meets a woman at a well and asks her for a drink of water. Later he tells her, "The water I shall give will become...a spring of water..., welling up to eternal life."



The water used when you were baptized reminds you of Jesus' promise of eternal life to all who love and follow him.

Magic Square

Hidden in this magic square are some ways that you use water. Can you find them? Can you think of others?

C	A	E	I	O	L	H	D
L	B	A	T	H	E	D	T
E	Q	S	Y	V	S	R	U
A	C	W	A	S	A	I	L
N	F	I	S	H	B	N	Z
R	D	M	C	O	O	K	X
C	G	K	N	W	P	M	J
G	A	R	D	E	N	F	B



WORD LIST

BATH	GARDEN	DRINK	SAIL
SWIM	COOK	FISH	CLEAN