

MYSTAGOGY

Immersion into Baptismal Waters

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Catechist Preparation**Read**

- OCIA ritual text 206–213
- Matthew 3:10-17
- OCIA, *Christian Initiation*, General Introduction

Music Suggestions

- “Water of Life,” S. Dean, OCP Publication
- “Baptized in Water,” M. Haugen, GIA Publications

Pray

Pray the Sign of the Cross.

Prepare

If possible, gather at the baptismal font used at the Easter Vigil, or prepare a different space with chairs, a Bible, and a large, white candle. If needed, have name tags. Have some refreshments available.

If the group is larger than five or six, guide people to share in smaller groups whenever possible.

Gather

1. Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing. Use the **Recall the Easter Vigil** section of the participant page. Allow time for all to share one or two memories.
2. Ask one or two people to share their experience of witnessing the Baptism

of infants. Explore the similarities and differences between the Baptism of an infant and the Baptism of an adult:

- The choice of the adult to be baptized
- The Profession of Faith that is spoken by the adult rather than the parents
- The pouring of water
- The words of Baptism
- Godparents, white garment, and candle

Deepen

1. Brainstorm with the whole group all the ways that water is part of life. Be sure to include both the positive and negative aspects of water. Summarize using these or similar words:

Water is absolutely necessary for all living things. Water is a very powerful force—too much water, like a flood or tsunami, can destroy life. Water is one of our most important resources. Water is the profound symbol and means of Baptism.

2. Read and discuss the **Probe the Mystery** section of the participant page.

Meditate

1. Refer to the **Savor the Sweetness of Salvation** section of the participant page.
2. Explore these points:
 - Baptism is the gateway to all the other sacraments.
 - Baptism plunges us into the life of the Trinity.

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- In Baptism, we die to our old self in order to rise anew with Christ, who is the Living Water.
- Baptism initiates us into the family of God; we are now adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and brother and sister to all.
- There is one Baptism, one faith, one Lord.

3. Discuss:

- Marking ourselves with water and the Sign of the Cross whenever we enter the church
- The baptismal font

Summarize the discussion.

Do

1. If participants have not witnessed the Baptism of infants or children, encourage them to come to the next scheduled Baptism in the parish.
2. Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.
3. If possible, visit one or two other churches to see the location of the baptismal font.

Pray

Take holy water and make the Sign of the Cross as a reminder that each of us has been marked and claimed by Christ for the mission of Christ.

