

## Getting Ready for Chapter 6

# Take Home



## Baptism in Christ

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, baptized him in the Jordan River. Jesus' baptism announced his vocation to show God's image to the world. Our baptism does the same for us.

### ACTIVITY

**Celebrate** Look for the baptismal candles of family members. Light the candles as a remembrance of that special day. Celebrate by looking at the pictures or the video from each of the ceremonies. You may want to do this on the anniversary of your baptism, too!

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

As you pray the Nicene Creed listen for the things we believe as Catholics.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

#### Saint of The Week



**Saint John the Baptist**  
(first century)

Saint John the Baptist was a prophet and fearless preacher of repentance. He prepared the way for his cousin, Jesus. Several of his followers were chosen to be Apostles of Jesus.

**Patron Saint of:** Baptism, converts

**Feast Day:** June 24 & August 29



**A Prayer for the Week**

Lord, John the Baptist in his day prepared for Jesus. Help us to prepare the way for Jesus today. Give us John's courage to be honest and to reach out to the poor and needy.  
Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Jordan River** The longest river in Palestine begins in the mountains of northern Galilee. It is appropriately named the Jordan, which means “descender.” From the mountains it descends into the Sea of Galilee. The river eventually empties into the Dead Sea, where it is more than a thousand feet below sea level. The river’s direct course is sixty-five miles long, but with its winding path it covers two hundred miles. Jesus’ ministry began when he was baptized in the Jordan River.

Read about the meaning of Baptism in Romans 6:3–4.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in the Sacraments

**Baptism** The sacraments are rich with signs. In Baptism, water is poured three times over the head of a person being baptized, a sign of our belief in the Three Persons of the Trinity. The oil of crism is used on the forehead, signing us as priest, prophet, and king—the three roles of a Christian. The oil of catechumens is used to anoint those preparing for Baptism. It represents being protected by God. The white garment shows that we have “put on Christ” and are starting a new life as a follower of Jesus. The baptismal candle represents that, like Christ, we are to be a light in the world.