

## Getting Ready for Chapter 5

# Take Home



## We Are Baptized into the Body of Christ

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we become children of God and members of the Catholic Church. Baptism washes away original sin and fills our souls with God's grace. Through Baptism, we become part of the Body of Christ and no longer live for ourselves but for Christ and his Church.

### ACTIVITY

**IXΘYS** The sign of a fish was a secret sign that early Christians used to identify themselves to one another. In Greek, the initials of the phrase *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior* spell out the word IXΘYS (IHK thoos), which means "fish." Make a fish symbol to identify yourself as a Christian.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water to remember your Baptism.

#### 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 Maximilian Kolbe**  
(1894–1941)

During World War II, Father Kolbe, a Polish priest, was arrested by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz. He died there after courageously choosing to give up his life so that another prisoner would be spared.

**Patron Saint of:** political prisoners, pro-life movement  
**Feast Day:** August 14



**A Prayer for the Week**

Father, you have welcomed us into your family and have given us your Son, Jesus. Send your Spirit to guide our family, now and forever. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**The Jordan River** The name “Jordan,” meaning “descender,” aptly describes a river that, when it reaches the end of its journey to the Dead Sea, arrives at the lowest point on earth. From the slopes of Mt. Hermon in Syria, the river flows to the Sea of Galilee, then winds its way to the Dead Sea. Today, in a region where water is scarce, the Jordan is a highly valued source of water for both Jordan and Israel, and has often been the source of disputes between the two countries. For Christians, the Jordan is esteemed as the place where Jesus was baptized.

Read about Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13–17.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Leadership

**The USCCB** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of all the bishops of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The work of the USCCB includes coordinating Catholic activities in the United States, organizing religious, charitable, and social welfare work at home and abroad, aiding in education, and helping immigrants. The USCCB has a staff of more than 350 priests, deacons, religious, and laypeople. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C. To learn more about the USCCB, visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).