

STUDY GUIDE 3

Baptism Unites Us with the Christian Community

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 3**.

✦ Baptism is the first sacrament we celebrate, often when we are babies. It marks us forever as Christians.

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✦ Baptism brings us into the Christian family and cleanses us of all sin.

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✦ Original Sin is the sin we are born with as members of the human race. It comes from the sin Adam and Eve committed. Baptism washes away this sin.

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✦ In RCIA, adults get ready to enter the Christian community by preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. They study the Catholic faith. The Christian family helps bring them into the community.

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✦ A person learning the faith in RCIA is called a catechumen.

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✦ Words, actions, and objects blessed by the Church that bring us closer to God are called sacramentals. Water is a sacramental for Baptism.

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✦ We welcome people into our homes by name. Likewise, during Baptism, the Christian community welcomes new members of the Church by name.

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✦ Sacramentals used in Baptism include a white garment, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sign of the Cross. The most important sacramental is water.

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✦ A candle is lit from the paschal candle during the baptismal ceremony. This lighted candle reminds us of the light of Christ. Parents and godparents are told to help their child keep the light burning brightly.

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✦ The celebration of Baptism ends with the great prayer Jesus taught his first disciples, the Lord's Prayer.

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