

The Church Sanctifying—Sacraments of Membership

Lesson Focus | Through the Church, the grace won by Christ on the Cross is poured out into our souls. The Sacraments are the primary means by which we receive this grace. Of the seven Sacraments, three — Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation — are set apart as Sacraments of Initiation. By them, we receive new life in Christ, nourish that life, and are strengthened in it. All Catholics around the world and in all times have celebrated these Sacraments, although the manner in which they're celebrated differs among rites.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Show your child any pictures you have of your Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation.
- Read John 3:1–6 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: *In the Sacraments of Initiation we are born anew. We receive new life in Baptism, nourish that life with the Eucharist, and strengthen it in Confirmation.*

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. What is the matter for each of the three Sacraments of Initiation? (*Baptism — water; Eucharist — bread and wine; Confirmation — laying on of the hands and anointing with sacred chrism.*)
2. Who is the minister of each of those Sacraments? (*Baptism — bishop, priest, or deacon; Eucharist — priest; Confirmation — bishop.*)
3. What are the words used for each? (*Baptism — “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Eucharist — “This is my Body... This is the chalice of my Blood”; Confirmation — “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*)
4. Which of these Sacraments does not leave an indelible mark on the soul? (*Eucharist.*)
5. Which Sacrament calls us in a special way to be witnesses to the Faith? (*Confirmation.*)
6. Which Sacrament makes us brothers and sisters of Christ? (*Baptism.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 7, pp. 43–53
- Sacred Scripture: Mt 26:26–28; 28:18–20; Jn 3:5; 6:35–39; 20:22; Acts 2:1–11
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 1203, 1212–74, 1285–1314, 1322–1405



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. How can you protect the new life you received in Baptism?
2. How can you grow closer to Christ through the Eucharist?
3. What are some ways you can be a witness to the Faith every day?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize John 3:5.
2. If possible, attend the Divine Liturgy at (or simply visit) an Eastern rite church in your area. Or search online for examples of Eastern rite sacred art and architecture.
3. Research the life of Saint Francis Xavier and the work he did to spread the gospel. Encourage your child to illustrate or dramatize key events, if possible.

*Jesus answered,
“Truly, truly, I say
to you, unless one
is born of water and
the Spirit, he cannot
enter the kingdom of
God.”*

—John 3:5

notes
