

Sacraments of Initiation

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Understand that people of all ages can be baptized into the Church
- Identify that the Sacraments of Initiation include Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Recall that Baptism removes Original Sin, forgives personal sin, and gives new life in Christ; Confirmation seals and completes Baptism
- Appreciate that Jesus shares himself with us in the Eucharist

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *In Baptism we are welcomed into the life of the Church and invited to journey toward life with God forever. At our Confirmation, the Sacred Chrism sealed our Baptism and the Holy Spirit strengthened us. At the Table of the Lord, we received the Body and Blood of Christ. As the spiritual leader and primary teacher of faith for your family, encourage everyone to remember that the grace given in these Sacraments is real and can help us with the ups and downs of life.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Seven Sacraments
- If You Believe and I Believe

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that Baptism is the first Sacrament we receive.

Say: Remember that in Baptism, God shares his life with us through Jesus. We become part of the Body of Christ here on Earth. Listen to how Saint Peter spoke to his family in faith.

Turn to Page 223,
Sacraments of Initiation
Vivos en Cristo, Page 447



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: The Sacraments are God’s gift to us to help us to grow as Jesus’ disciples. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist celebrate membership in the Catholic Church.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Seven Sacraments.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
New Life in God
Vivos en Cristo, Page 449

Read aloud the opening question and first paragraph.

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs. Point out the highlighted word, **Sacred Chrism**, and review its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask your child to share impressions of the photograph on the bottom of the page.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 225,
Life in the Church
Vivos en Cristo, Page 451

Direct your child’s attention to the photograph at the top of the page. Read aloud the caption.

Have your child silently read the three paragraphs and then summarize the story for you.

Ask your child to either list on a piece of paper, or share with you verbally, the similarities and the differences found between the celebrations.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Immersing a person in flowing water was the usual way of baptizing in the early Church. Baptism by immersion has been brought back in many parishes today. A Baptismal pool is used for this purpose. Some parishes use temporary pools for the Easter Vigil; others have permanent pools. If at all possible, attend the Easter Vigil together as a family. The Rites of the Easter Vigil are so meaningful and more fully appreciated when experienced firsthand.*

Turn to Page 226,
Church Membership
Vivos en Cristo, Page 453

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Review the highlighted words, **Sacraments of Initiation** and **Eucharist**, and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture story in the Parchment Paper box.

Ask: Who did Peter say Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit was for?
(everyone)

Ask your child to share their impression of the picture at the bottom of the page.

Turn to Page 227,
Receiving and Sharing
God's Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

Read aloud the first paragraph. Review the highlighted word, **Real Presence**, and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 226.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The teaching of the Real Presence is important, but not possible to fully explain. As a family, prioritize participation in Mass. Help your child form a trust in the power of the Eucharist in our lives. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Ask yourself how the Eucharist nourishes your spiritual life. Discuss this with your child.*

Review the "Sacraments of Initiation" chart with your child. Have your child silently read the "Words and Actions" and tell you what the words and actions are for each Sacrament. Either read aloud the "Effects" column or summarize it for your child.



Do the gold-star activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 457

Read aloud the opening question and first two paragraphs.

Summarize the bullet points for your child.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 459

Read the paragraph about Saint John the Baptist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a Baptism you have seen. Who was baptized? What happened during the Sacrament?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Initiation is a process. The Rites celebrate the process, but we cooperate with grace when we prayerfully continue to nourish our spiritual lives in the regular participation of the Eucharist. Encourage your family as they continue on this journey.*

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord during your night prayer this week.*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.