

Holy Baptism

The First Sunday after Epiphany (January 6) is also known as the Baptism of Our Lord. Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. Because we baptize people in the traditional name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the material used in the Godly Play baptism presentation is three overlapping white circles, a symbol of the Trinity. We then place images on each of the white circles: the pouring of water for the Creator, the lighting of the Christ Candle for the Redeemer, and the image of the dove and the invisible scent of oil for the Sustainer.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or her

own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's presentation offered below. If you do read the presentation, invite your child to show you in the illustration what images represent each of the Persons of the Trinity. (**Note:** The language in this lesson follows the customs of the Episcopal Church; you may wish to substitute your church's customs and key words.) Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation

We baptize people in the name of the Father...the Son...and the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we call the Father *the Creator*. We call the Son *the Redeemer*. We call the Holy Spirit *the Sustainer*.

We remember the Father, the Creator, with water—the water of creation, the dangerous water of the flood, the water the people went through into freedom,

