

Queen of Angels School of Religion
Sunday Morning Classes
Grade 2 -- Preparation for First Communion

Student Text: Christ Our Life God Cares For Us Level 2 (Loyola Press)

Unit I: God Gives Us Life and Love

Lesson 3: "Jesus Lives in His Church"

Baptism initiates us into the family of God and requires us to act in keeping with our new dignity. Christians are called upon to live in love and unity with all members of God's family under the leadership of the pope, bishops and priests.

**Scripture: I John 3: 1 (God calls us His children and that is what we are.)
Ephesians: 2: 19 (You are no longer strangers. You belong to the saints and are part of God's family.)
I John 4: 9 -12 (The proof of God's love is that He sent His son.
We are also to love one another as God has loved us.)**

Class Discussion:

- **Students relate experiences of receiving a gift. Gifts remind us that the giver loves us.**
- **Children are gifts from God -- parents welcome children into their family -- In Baptism children are welcomed into God's family so the entire community rejoices when a child is baptized.**
- **Students think of ways they show that they love and care for others.**
- **Students talk about favorite family pictures -- relatives who live far away or are seldom visited are like the pope, bishops, and other Christians around the world who also belong to God's family.**
- **Students look at some pictures of a baptism ceremony -- each child was welcomed into the family of God.**

Group Prayer:

**We thank God for choosing us to be in His family.
We ask Jesus to help us to live and grow to be like Him.**

Ways Family Can Extend The Lesson:

- **Show your child the pictures taken at his/her Baptism.**
- **Put the baptismal day for each member of the family on your calendar. Plan a special way to celebrate those days with your family.**
- **Decide on a way that your family can show love or care for others.**
- **Look up the patron saint of each family member in a Book of Saints or on the internet <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>**
- **Purchase a special candle which is burnt when the family prays together at meals or on special occasions to celebrate name days / birthdays / baptismal days.**
- **Post this prayer on a mirror or in a place where each family member is sure to see it often and be reminded to pray.**

"Dear Jesus, help me to grow in love of you."

Teacher's Note: Time spent in prayer with your child is important. The time should be special, but it does not need to be lengthy. Prayers at meal time, bedtime and Sunday Mass can be occasions of grace and growth in the Faith-life of your child.