



Dear Baptized Child of God and family,

One year ago, your child was baptized at Gloria Dei. Too often, we think of our baptism as an event instead of a way of living one's life. Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong faith journey. There is a daily rhythm of death and resurrection (see Romans 6:3-4) in one's baptism that involves the confession of our sinfulness and God's action of forgiveness and steadfast love. That daily dying and rising gives birth to a life of thanksgiving, generosity and faith active in love. Baptism is the foundation for how we live as Christians.

Each year, you will be invited to take some special time with your child, either at church with other families who have children the same age, or at home with just your family through Milestones. Our goal is to equip you for teaching your child about their faith and to remind them of their baptism.

The Anniversary of Baptism Milestone is an opportunity to remind everyone that living our baptism is a lifelong journey—and one needs to be prepared to live and walk wet! Attached you will find The Four Keys: Caring Conversation, Family Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions, a tool that will help you share your faith with your child. If your child is very young, you might not think they understand much of what you're telling them, but they're learning faith is important.

You are welcome to work your way through The Four Keys whenever is convenient for you. When you've completed them, stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a shell that can use in your home as a reminder to keep talking to your child about baptism. (If you'd like, you could keep the shell on your table and use it regularly in place of the bowl in the Rituals and Traditions section of The Four Keys.)

Thank you for fulfilling your promises. If you have any questions, please contact me at lara.kvale@gloriadeisf.org or 371-3737 ext 12. If you can't remember the exact date of your child's baptism and would like to know, I can look that up for you.

In Christ,

Lara Kvale

Coordinator of Faith Formation



4 Keys for Practicing Faith

Caring Conversations:

Take turns answering the sharing the following:

- Name and count all the ways you use water during your day.
- When was the last time you saw a rainbow? What do you think about when you see a rainbow?
- Tell about the day you were/your loved one was baptized. Look at pictures of the day together.

Devotions:

Read Scripture: 1 Peter 3:20-21 (CEV) *They had disobeyed God while Noah was building the boat, but God had been patient with them. Eight people went into that boat and were brought safely through the flood. Those flood waters were like baptism that now saves you. But baptism is more than just washing your body. It means turning to God with a clear conscience, because Jesus Christ was raised from death.*

Take some time to answer these questions:

- Is there a word or phrase that jumps out at you while reading this scripture?
- The rainbow was a promise to Noah. What promises are we given at baptism?

Service:

There are places in the world where water is scarce. Search online for organizations and ministries that support those in need of water or ask about programs in your congregation or community. Become more knowledgeable about water needs in the world and consider making a donation to one of these organizations. Conserve water at home by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth.

Rituals and Traditions:

Set a small bowl of water in the middle of a table and light a candle before prayer. Pray together:

Gracious God, at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus to be your beloved son and blessed him with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to remember the waters of baptism every day. And help us live each day as your child, using our gifts to serve others in your name to make a difference in this world. Amen.