

Continuing the baptism presentations for the upper atrium
April 23, 2020

Direct aim: To present another sign in Baptism, the cross on the forehead, that signifies that we belong to Christ and are part of the Christian family.

Some materials to gather ahead of the presentation:

- oil (a more fragrant oil if available) soaked on a cotton ball or gauze that can be placed in a small container
- words of the baptism, one of the girls might like to write these on a card or locate on page 308 of the Prayer Book

(Name) you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen

Presentation:

Before Easter there were several presentations about baptism. Do you remember any of the signs or gestures that we talked about?

At baptism we each receive a small candle, which has been lit from the Paschal Candle, the light of Christ. This candle reminds us that we have received Christ's light at our baptism and are joined firmly to the True Vine.

Also, at baptism the priest makes the sign of the epiclesis over the water asking that the Holy Spirit bless the water before the priest pours the water on the candidate's head saying, *(Name) I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

There is another sign that is used during the baptism. The priest uses a fragrant oil, the chrism, to make a small sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate saying these words:

(Name) you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen

Ask one of the girl's if you can make the sign of the cross on her forehead, press your finger on the oiled cotton ball, and then make a small cross on the forehead while saying the words. (The cross is a small vertical line down and then a horizontal line from your left to right.) Then give each girl the opportunity to make the cross on your or a sibling's forehead and say the words. One girl may want to make the cross and another may want to say the words.

Wonder questions:

How would it feel being marked as Christ's own forever?

Do you think you would feel more tightly connected to the True Vine?

Is there anything you would like to say to Jesus about baptism? (quiet is fine)

The girls might like to:

- Practice making the sign of the cross with the chrism and saying the words.
- Copy the words and decorate.
- Draw pictures of how they envision their baptisms.
- (When we return to the atrium, we have many card packets for the girls to use in a variety of ways to think about baptism.)