

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 6

CHRIST IS RISEN

Lesson 6

Immersed

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Lesson Overview

Students will examine the Baptismal liturgy of the Easter Vigil.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Grade 4:

CL1.3: Link the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation to the seasons of the liturgical calendar (Advent, Lent, and Easter) and identify in the symbols of the sacraments and the seasons, signs of God's presence (e.g. "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."). [CCC nos. 1420-1470]

Grade 5:

CL3.3: Examine the Baptismal liturgy of the Easter Vigil and explain why the liturgy begins with the Litany of the Saints to which the names of those to be baptized are added, and why it is appropriate form of prayer to the saints. (Through baptism we become members of the communion of Saints. When we pray to the saints, we're simply asking them to help us, by praying to God on our behalf, or thanking them for having already done so.) [CCC nos. 946-959; 1173]

Grade 6:

CL3.2: Describe various ways Christ's death and Resurrection are expressed in both the sacraments of Initiation and the liturgical rites and symbols of the Easter Triduum (e.g. through symbols - Darkness / Light, Fire, the Paschal Candle, empty tabernacle;

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

CGE1b: Participates in the sacramental life of the church and demonstrates an understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist to our Catholic story

CGE5a: Works effectively as an interdependent team member.

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through word and song - Exultat, Scripture Readings; through sacramentals - incense, water, oils, cross). [CCC nos. 1127-1130]	
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GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

The Liturgical seasons are marked by specific rituals, prayers, signs, images and colours which have developed throughout the Tradition of the Church and which have become part of our experience of faith in Christ as expressed in the yearly life of the Church.

- What is the significance of some of the signs and rituals that take place in the Baptismal liturgy?
- What is the importance of the Litany of Saints at the Easter Vigil?

LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Identify and explain the signs and symbols within the Baptismal liturgy of the Easter Vigil.
- Explain what the Litany of Saints is and why it takes place in the Baptismal liturgy.

Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

Terminology:

- Baptismal liturgy
- Baptismal font
- Litany of Saints
- Profession of faith
- Paschal Candle
- CCC

Materials:

Internet Resources:

- *Easter Vigil Baptism:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtIFILHNof4>
- Come to the Water Music Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrhqUi4DNJk>

MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Ask students to recall the 4 parts of the Easter Vigil (*The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil/The Liturgy of the Word/Baptismal Liturgy /The Liturgy of the Eucharist*).

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To review the vocabulary listed in *Terminology* and all other vocabulary that has been learned in this unit, it would be beneficial to create an anchor chart with these words. This will assist as these terms are recalled throughout the unit and will further assist with the consolidation of understanding for students.

Inform students that they will be looking closely at the Baptismal Liturgy today.

Ask students to recall what takes place throughout the Baptismal Liturgy during the Easter Vigil (*blessing of water/baptisms/renewal of baptismal promises/Reception of Candidates/Confirmation/Prayer of the Faithful*).

Inform students that they will be viewing a video clip of an Easter Vigil Baptism. Students should be prepared to share/discuss what they see in the video, including rituals, signs and what they may represent. View the video clip at this time.

ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

The following discussion can take place after viewing the video:

1. **What did you see happen in the Baptismal Liturgy?** (*Candidate called forward with sponsor/procession to the Baptismal Font with family during the Litany of Saints/blessing of the water/Profession of Faith/Baptism/Alleluia is sung/the faithful bless themselves with holy water.*)
2. **What is the significance of the candidate being called by name?** (*In the Gospels, Jesus often calls people by name so that they would come follow him. An example is Zacchaeus, the tax collector, whose life changed as soon as he followed the Lord. (See Luke 19:1-10). Isaiah also reminds us that the Lord calls us by name. (See Isaiah 43:1). Candidates seeking to join the Church are also being called, and they too are following Jesus.*)
3. **Why do you think the Baptismal liturgy begins with the Litany of Saints?** (*When we were baptized, whether as infants or later on such as at the Easter Vigil, we become members of the communion of saints. We often pray with our communities – church, school, family, etc, and the saints are another one of our communities. When we pray to the saints, we’re simply asking them to help us, by praying to God on our behalf, or thanking them for having already done so. The names of those who are about to be baptized are also added to the litany, because they will be members shortly. Note: Even though we often say “pray to” the saints, what we are actually doing is asking the saints to pray WITH us TO God.*)
4. **What symbols do we see during the blessing of the water? What do they represent?** (*water – new life, and sometimes the Paschal Candle is used - a reminder of our own baptism – that since we have died with him, we too will rise with him. The Paschal Candle plunged into the water also symbolizes the Holy Spirit, who is making holy the waters of Baptism.*)

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	<p>5. What does the profession of faith remind you of? (<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>). Why do you think it is important for everyone to participate in this profession? (<i>It is important to renew our baptismal promises many times, as we do by saying the Apostles' Creed at Mass every week. The profession of faith is another way of doing this in a powerful way. CCC 197: To say the Credo with faith is to enter into communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe.</i>)</p> <p>6. What symbols do we see in the actual Baptism? (<i>The water – new life, the trinity – Father, Son & Holy Spirit, when a person is baptized, they are not just immersed in water, but immersed into our faith, and become a member of the Body of Christ; Forgiveness – forgives original sin and all personal sins. See CCC 1262-1284. Alleluia – the alleluia is often sung after a baptism, which means “praise God”.</i>)</p> <p>7. The last ritual we see is the faithful blessing themselves with holy water. When do we do this? (when we enter/leave a church). Why do we do this? (<i>This ritual is a reminder of our baptism. We entered the Church through baptism, and now when we come to celebrate Eucharist, we are able to do this because we were baptized in Christ.</i>)</p>
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	<p>CONSOLIDATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection• Helping students demonstrate what they have learned
	<p>Reflective Video: Come to the Water (Matt Maher) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrhqUi4DNJk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students may reflect on this contemporary version of the song, and how it relates to the Sacrament of Baptism. <p>Reflective Journal: The Sacrament of Baptism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite students to complete a reflective journal on the sacrament of baptism. If students require prompting, direct them to the 7 questions that were discussed during the lesson and what stood out for them during this sharing.

	<p>CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES</p>
	<p>Further extensions to this lesson might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking further into the Sacrament of Baptism in a context that is outside of the Easter Vigil (i.e. consider inviting a caregiver and his/her newly baptized infant to class to discuss what they experienced during the baptism).