

Children's Newsletter

St Mary's

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Today's Gospel tells us that people were getting excited and thinking that John the Baptist was the one God had promised. He told them that there was someone greater than him coming and when John baptized Jesus a voice came from Heaven.

God told everyone who was listening



Baptism of the Lord

Christmas-time ends

Today is the end of Christmastime. After this week we start Sundays of Ordinary time and the priest will be wearing green vestments.

Symbols of Baptism

There are a number of symbols to do with Baptism. The first one is the candle. Candles have always been used as a sign of Jesus who is the Light of the World.

In Baptism the candle is given to the parents so that the baby

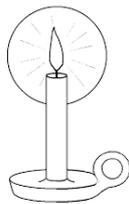
will always walk in the light.

The second symbol is the white garment, a sign of purity and that God now lives in the child.

Water is the third symbol. Water is used to wash away Sin.

The soul of the child becomes pure.

Can you design a card for a Baptism, using these symbols?



Baptism

In the early church only adults were baptized. These early Christians were taught about their faith for several years. When they were ready they would be baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass. This is the Mass during the night before Easter morning.

Vestments

This is the chasuble, which the priest wears on Sundays. During Christmastime it has been white. Next week it will be green.

The chasuble is a loose garment with no sleeves that is slipped over the head. It comes from the outdoor coats worn in Roman times. Priests have always worn them from that time. It is only worn by Priests and Bishops.



Deacons also wear vestments. It is called a Dalmatic. Can you see any differences?



Superhero

A superhero is someone who is able to do extraordinary things. Over the weeks we are going to look at some superheroes of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is the part of the Bible before Jesus was born.

The first book of the Bible is Genesis, the second book is Exodus and this is where you will find Moses.

Moses

Moses was a young Jewish boy who was brought up in the Pharaoh's palace until he ran away.

When God told Moses to return to Egypt he did, and he persuaded the pharaoh to let the Jewish slaves go.

He had God's help and he led the Jews through the desert for 40 years until they came to the promised Land.

Moses did many miraculous things. One of them was when the Jews were leaving Egypt and they reached the Red Sea. Behind them the Egyptians were catching them up to bring them back to be slaves. The Jews were very scared but Moses lifted his staff and parted the Red Sea. The Jews crossed the sea on dry land. When the Egyptians tried to follow, Moses brought down his staff and the Sea rolled back and drowned them.

Can you find out about another story with Moses?

