

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	Jesus is baptized
Monday	Mark 9:2-8	Jesus is transfigured
Tuesday	Acts 9:1-19a	Saul's conversion and baptism
Wednesday	Acts 22:2-16	Paul describes his baptism
Thursday	Job 26:7-14	Job speaks of creation
Friday	Job 38:1-18	The Lord speaks of creation
Saturday	Psalms 104	A psalm of creation
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God of creation, make us new. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For all you've created, and give us to share, we thank you, O God.
How great is your care! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may the Lord give you his Spirit and make you sure of his love. Amen. (Mark 1:10-11)

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What do you know or remember about the day you were baptized?
- What happened when Jesus was baptized?
- What did God do for you when you were baptized?

DEVOTIONS:

As part of your home devotional time this week, share a rite of baptismal remembrance.

Gather a jug of water, an empty bowl, a larger center candle, and a smaller candle for each person. Pour the water into the bowl and say these words (a leader says the words in italics, all say the words in bold).

For your gift of water: **We thank you, Lord.**

For the water of baptism: **We thank you, Lord.**

Now light the center candle.

For your gift of light, which warms and guides us: **We thank you, Lord.**

For the light of Christ: **We thank you, Lord.**

By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life.

Each person now lights his or her candle from the center candle, as the leader says:

In baptism we were joined to the life of Christ. Let us shine for him.

Household members may dip their fingers into the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads, saying these words:

You are a baptized child of God, who is well pleased with you.

SERVICE:

God calls us to help him in taking care of his creation. As an act of community service, take a few plastic bags and walk around your neighborhood picking up litter (remember to wear gloves).

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Go for a household nature walk. Take a digital camera or paper and pencils. When you return, make a poster using your pictures or drawings. Write the words of Genesis 1:1 in the center. Place the poster in a prominent place in your home.