

Ritual Moment

Renunciation of Sin & Profession of Faith

Imagine

Through baptism we say no to sin and yes to life and faith in Jesus. As Christians we choose to be loving, life giving people of God, saying no to the things that divide us from God and each other and saying yes to those things that life and nurture others.

Imagine what the world would be like if all people sought life for one another. How would the world be different?

Word of God

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Word to Remember: LIFE

God's hope for us is life! Life through knowing him. Life through living his ways. Life through being loved by him. Life!

Practice: Professing Your Faith

How do you live out your faith? Would there be enough evidence for a court to find you guilty of being Christian? How do you profess your faith through word and action?

Activity

As a household, create your own profession of faith by listing all the things that you say no to (reject) and all that you say yes to about your Christian faith. Then prayerfully read out loud your profession, closing in prayer.

What do you say no to? Selfishness? Injustice?
We reject...

What do you say yes to? Loving as Jesus loved? Compassion? Patience?
We believe in...

Closing Prayer

We ask you Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon us that we may be your people of faith, hope, and love. Help us to be children of the light, witnesses of your beauty to all we meet. Amen.

Ritual Moment

Water

Imagine

"Water is cited in Scripture more than any other natural resource. In Scripture, water is a sign of God's providential care. It can be abundantly showered down or withheld because of sin. It is also a sign of purification. Water in liturgy is used to baptize (purify, justify, sanctify, and incorporate one into the body of Christ). It is used in the rite of sprinkling to remind us of our baptism. Caskets are blessed with holy water as a reminder that baptism is a share in the eternal life of Christ. We bless ourselves with water as a sign of being members of Christ's body. Water is used for blessings: dedications of churches, blessings of homes, boats, fields, animals, etc." (Mary Birmingham)

Imagine all the things you do with water such as wash and drink. How many can you list? What would your life be like without it?

Word of God

"On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

Word to Remember: THIRST

Can you remember a time when you were physically thirsty for refreshment? When you were so thirsty that having a glass of water seemed like the best drink ever? We thirst for more than physical things – we thirst for love, we thirst for attention, we thirst for affirmation, we thirst to feel good about who we are and what we do. Jesus says, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me."

Practice

Out of the believers heart shall flow rivers of living water. How am I living water to others—encouraging them, supporting them, challenging them?

Ritual Moment

Naming

Imagine

In baptism we are all given a name, carefully chosen by our parents or caregivers. God has created us and called us each by name. Created by God, in God's image and likeness, we celebrate our belonging to God through baptism. It is through baptism that our name is proclaimed to the community and our beauty as God's children is celebrated.

Word of God

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine."
(Isaiah 43:1)

Word to Remember: CALLED

God has called each of us by name. Not just some people, or a few special people, but all of us are called by name. There is an intimacy and a connectedness when someone is able to call us by name, particularly when we are called by name in love.

Practice: Calling each other by name in love.

Imagine if we only spoke each other's name when we spoke from a vantage point of love – not dislike, anger, or hate, but love.

Activity

Celebrate the beauty of each other. Invite each person in the household to write their name on a poster leaving space around the name for decoration. Pass the posters around and have each person write a gift (in word or picture) that the person named on that poster shares. Conclude by having everyone read their poster and share with each other why they put the words and images on each.

Walk through the house hanging the posters on bedroom doors and praying this simple blessing: *God, bless your beloved (name) as he/she shares his/her gifts with the world.*

Ritual Moment

Light

Imagine

In Scripture when light or fire appears, God is present. Light is a prime symbol of Christ and his life. For John the evangelist, Jesus is the light that dispels the darkness... the reign of God is characterized by light, there is no night in the heavenly sphere. The newly baptized are presented with a lighted candle as a sign that they have been enlightened by Christ. Light is used in every liturgical celebration: as a sanctuary lamp for the Blessed Sacrament, candles illumine the table of the Word and Eucharist as a sign of Christ's presence, and the Easter candle is used at weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

Imagine a world without light. Could we survive in total darkness, limited by the rising and setting of the sun?

Word of God

"Walk while you have the light so the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." (John 12:35-36)

Word to Remember: LIGHT

See where you are going.

Practice

Walk as children of the light!

Activity

Think of the many ways light and darkness impact on your lives—seeing, emotions (people can often get depressed without enough sunlight), activities, safety issues, etc.

Pray as you light a candle.

Let us pray. Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. May this lit candle enflame us with new hope. Purify our minds and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual Moment

Signing

Imagine

In baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross. We are claimed, loved, marked by God as God's own—marked and claimed to love as God loved.

"The cross is the principal Christian symbol of hope. Without the cross there is no resurrection. The symbol of cross was fostered by Jesus who challenged his disciples to take up their cross and follow him. Disciples had to be willing to give up their personal welfare in response to the reign of God. Being signed with the cross is to be marked and reminded that one belongs to Christ and his cross. The cross is a primary symbol in every blessing, ritual, liturgy, sacrament, and sacramental of the church." (Mary Birmingham)

Imagine the cross as a radiant sign of hope for the world. Imagine what it means to us to be marked by it—claimed and marked by God. Imagine if the cross placed on our heads was actually physically present. Would we try to hide it or disguise it at any time?

Word of God

"Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.'" (Luke 9:23-26)

Word to Remember: CROSS

Practice

Seeing through the lens of the cross – the cross seemed like a failure but was our path to redemption. See the world through the lens of the cross and find hope in the strangest places!

Prayer

In baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross. We are claimed, loved, marked by God as God's own—marked and claimed to love as God loved, and so we pray.

We will mark our senses with the sign of the cross, which is a sign of love and compassion over death and darkness :

- ✦ We mark our eyes with the sign of the cross... that we may see with the love and compassion of God.
- ✦ We mark our lips with the sign of the cross... that we may speak to each other with the compassion of God.
- ✦ We mark our ears with the sign of the cross... that we may hear the words of compassion spoken to us by each other.
- ✦ We mark our hands with the sign of the cross... that we may touch each other with the compassion of God.
- ✦ We mark our hearts with the sign of the cross... that we may be strong enough to love each other with the compassion of God.

Loving God, Father of compassion, help us to see what you see, to hear what you hear, to speak what you need us to speak. Help us to live our baptismal commitment to the full so that we may bring life to one another and witness your committed love to all whom we meet. Amen.

Ritual Moment

Oil

Imagine

"The baptized are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the signing with oil. The seal was a sign of ownership, much like a brand on cattle. The Christian is branded to Christ, marked permanently with the sign of salvation, the cross of Jesus Christ. In ordinary life oil heals, soothes, is used in cooking, for energy, for lubrication, and for protection from the elements. Oil is difficult to rub off, stains clothing when spilled, and only can be rubbed in to the skin."

(Mary Birmingham)

Imagine how you use oil in daily life. How might oil remind you of being sealed to Christ?

Word of God

"I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm shall also strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him."

(Psalm 89: 20-22,24)

Word to Remember: STEADFAST LOVE

God does not call us and abandon us to fend for ourselves. Once sealed to him through baptism, we are his. God does not abandon those who freely choose to belong to him.

Practice

Celebrate the anointing of others. Affirm the spirit of God working through the gifts of the people you live, work, and pray with.

Activity

Walk through your home and make note of all the different ways you use oil. How would your life be different without it?