

## Home Lesson for Sunday, January 9, 2022 (The Baptism of the Lord)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Students and Families,

Blessings to each of you. I am praying that you are well and having a good week! I am having a bit of déjà vu as we head back into home lessons these next four weeks. Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- We are working this week on the January 9<sup>th</sup> Pflaum Gospel Weekly Lesson.
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at [holyfamilyrockland.org](http://holyfamilyrockland.org). Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Next, choose your child's grade level, **Grade 4-5 Venture**. Everything you need for the week is found there: (Remember, I will always give you many options – you do what you can get to each week based on your family's schedule and your child's abilities.)
  1. Links to the Parent Teaching Guide pages to help your children each week
  2. A digital copy of their lesson (The hard copies are available if you would like to swing by the office this week and pick them up. Just let us know and we will have them ready for you or can leave them on our doorknob for you to pick up.) A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
  3. Prayers: Please work with your child to make sure they have mastered the prayers we have been working on (the **Sign of the Cross correctly, the Lord's Prayer (The Our Father), the Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the Act of Contrition**, all found in the **Student Venture Handbook on page 52**). Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders should be saying the Act of Contrition prayer each night before bed as they reflect on their day – thinking of the things they did well and the things they need to ask forgiveness for.
- If you ever want to go back to a previous week's lesson for any reason or rewatch a video etc. I always keep previous lessons available on the webpage under the heading: Previous Lessons/Activities.
- **This Sunday's Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22** This Sunday is the last day of the liturgical season of Christmas. It may come as a surprise that the Gospel reading does not tell us a story about Jesus' childhood. Instead, we have fast-forwarded about thirty years in Jesus' life. We hear about how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. This feast confirms that the baby Jesus, born at Christmas is indeed God's "beloved Son." John baptized with water; those baptized in Jesus' name will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
  - You and I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized.
  - Our sins are forgiven, and we are made children of God.
  - The gifts of the Holy Spirit are strengthened in us through the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  - Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus began the work of his ministry.
  - Our Baptism begins our mission and ministry as Christians.
- **Venture Grades 4–5:** Lesson Summary: (The complete lesson can be found on your child's webpage.) This week you and your child will learn about Baptism and the responsibilities for parents as well as children. Start the lesson by telling your child about their Baptism. Look at photos or videos you might have. Talk with your child about how you have undertaken your responsibility of raising them in the faith. Work through page 5 in the Gospel Weekly together. Have your child tell you the story of Jesus' baptism from this week's gospel.

- **Pray Together:** When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson on the Baptism of Jesus and how our Baptism calls us to live like him, make a point as a family to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week (or whatever time works best for your family schedule). The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. Pray together in your own words, that God will help your family to live out the call of Baptism to live as Jesus taught us, to love God and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

**Lastly, and most important:** If you are unable to attend Mass in person due to illness make sure that you watch Mass together as a family on Sunday. The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. And as always, I will email the link to you on Saturday evening.

Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family for the next four weeks. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to aid those affected by this latest surge of the virus.

Yours in Christ,  
Mrs. Liz Davis