

Milestones and Special Occasions





60. Being a child of God calls for a celebration! Birthday parties celebrate being born; a baptism birthday celebrates being reborn as a child of God. Mark the anniversary of your child's baptism on the calendar. If you can't remember the date, call the office of the church where the baptism took place. Celebrate your child's baptismal birthday each year. Here are some ideas:

- Contact your child's godparents with a gentle suggestion that it would be very special if they called or sent a greeting.
- Invite your child's friends and baptismal sponsors.
- Light the baptism candle for a centerpiece at a meal.
- Place a bowl of water or a small fountain in the middle of the table. Use the water from it to place the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads.
- Share your memories and photos of the baptism day. Who was there? When the water splashed, did your child yelp, laugh, or sleep straight through it? Did she wear a special outfit? Did someone give a special gift?
- Ask your pastor for other resources to celebrate a baptismal anniversary.
- Encourage guests to bring canned goods to the party for donation to the food pantry.
- Say the Lord's Prayer together.
- If you have one, watch the video of the baptism.
- Sing songs: "Jesus Loves Me," "This Little Light of Mine," even Christmas carols no matter the season!
- Play "Pin Noah on the Ark."

Celebrating a baptism birthday gives your child a sense of how special it is to be not only a member of your family, but also a member of the family of God.