

A Baptismal Ornament Craft



Theophany is a perfect time to focus on reviewing the sacrament of baptism as a family and what it means to you!

Take the time to reminisce a bit with your children about the day they were baptized. Show them the photographs and videos and let them know that it was important to you to have brought them to the fullness of membership in the Church and to have them freed from ancestral sin brought to us by our first parents, Adam and Eve. The waters of baptism perform both those actions for us and by it we are introduced to our life as a true Christian.

You may choose to have the children renew their baptismal vows today so that they can feel and know that they have freely made this declaration of faith for themselves and should take ownership of that decision and nurture their souls accordingly, as they have promised.

You may also want to mark the occasion of the renewal of the children's baptismal vows by having them make this little commemorative ornament! It can be packed away with the Christmas things and be brought out each year, and perhaps hung on the Christmas tree, to remember the occasion.

We use a scallop shell, a longstanding symbol of the sacrament of baptism because the shell was often used as an instrument to pour water over the head of the catechumen. Because shells are often symbols of a journey or traveling to a new place, perhaps the scallop shell symbolizes the journey the soul will take along its new path of Christianity as well.

You Will Need

- Scallop shell, one per person, with a hole drilled into the top of the shell (parents help required)
(can be bought at most craft stores, or in the aquarium section of most pet shops)
- Old nail polish, or craft paint
- Sharpie Marker
- Ribbon for hanging

Optional: Craft store pearl beads, one per person
Gold marker for decorating the edge of the shell

Instructions

Each person should take their shell and thinly paint the outer surface with nail polish or craft paint and allow it to completely dry.

While the paint is drying, discuss the day each of the children was baptized. Tell each of them the date of their baptism and let them know that it should be a special day for them, like their birthday and their name-day! Have the children practice writing their full name and the date on which they were baptized on a sheet of paper, so they can write it nicely later on.

Once the paint is completely dry (this is very important!), take the sharpie marker and have them write their full name and the date of their baptism on the inside of their shell.

Once this is completely dry, paint over the entire shell, inside and out, with clear nail polish, or spray it with varnish to seal and protect their work.

Once the shells are completely dry, you can hot glue a craft pearl to the top of the inside of the shell for decoration, perhaps apply some markings to the edge of the shell with a metallic gold marker, thread the ribbon through the hole that was drilled into the shell, and hang it up to enjoy!