

Baptismal Birthday Tips

Our school recognizes any student or faculty member who is having a baptismal birthday every week at chapel. We have a song that we sing as a school for those people. In addition to that, most of our early elementary teachers also recognize the dates in the classroom.

Richard W. Schumacher, Jr.

We give a small remembrance each year. The gifting of these is a part of each week's Chapel service. We have used pencils, personalized bookmarks, shells (natural and hand-crafted), jewelry, candles. This year brainstorming has resulted in personalized labels on water bottles. The supplies sit before me as I write.

Carol L. Hubacek

Some of our students are not baptized. While celebrating with those who are baptized, we want to witness in a non-threatening way to those who are not. My prayer is that we will have opportunity to baptize some students this year.

Our plan is to sing a verse of an appropriate song as those baptized that month gather around the baptismal font. The chapel leader will say a few words of remembrance (TBD). We will sing another verse of the song as participants return to their seats. On their way, participants will receive a small, clear glass bead (like those used in small bags to anchor helium balloons to tables). They look like drops of water. We can carry the beads with us as a reminder of our baptism.

Paul Brandt

We celebrate baptismal birthdays of students and teachers once a month. We call the individuals forward to kneel at the altar and then the Chapel leader offers a prayer. Each individual then receives a remembrance card (the ones that ETnet has sold in the past) that the faculty has previously signed. As everyone returns to their seats, we sing *Yes*.

Tim Walz

Knowing that each of our schools has something traditional done at each service I wanted to share something we do. I loved the little song my teachers taught the children. "I Was Baptized" is the title, written by Arnold C. Mueller, found in the book *Little Ones Sing Praise* published by CPH, copyright 1989. The big ones (grades 6-8) love singing it along with the little ones after the words of remembrance are shared. We do this in conjunction with *All God's People Sing* liturgy page 20.

John E. Schultz

We do basically the same as everyone else: sing a song, children come up to altar area, and the chapel leader says a prayer. The gift we give each year is tied into our school theme; "Light of the World"-small flashlights, "Follow Me"—small stuffed lambs for younger children, Shepherd bookmarks for older children, "We are His hands"—a wooden hand with their name on it. We celebrate baptism birthdays on the first chapel of each month. We have used several songs throughout the years but the children's favorite one is "Father Welcomes" from *All God's People Sing*.

Euni McCarty