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When I was in my early 20’s I went on a 2-week road trip with some friends. We went from Michigan to Texas to Florida, and back to Michigan. It was an amazing experience which ended up having great influence on my life. One of our first stops along the way was in St. Louis, Missouri. We took the opportunity to visit the popular, iconic landmark, The Gateway Arch (formerly The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.) Among my memories of that visit is the view that one got from the very top. Of course, the view included the entire National Park grounds which include The Old Courthouse, home of the famous Dred Scott case. You could see the great Mississippi River and the luxurious riverboats that dotted its shorelines. We looked down into Busch Memorial Stadium and watched the Elton John/Billy Joel concert. You could take in the entire city of St. Louis with all its streets, lights, and movement. And, you could see for miles and miles from the observation platform. “The Big Muddy” trailed into ribbons in the distance in both directions. The city lights melded into a convergence of illumination. The subtle glow of other cities and towns shined on the horizon. I also remember contemplating the significance of this structure, how it was the symbolic entrance to the new western region of our country. I recall feeling the awesomeness that pioneers would have felt as they crossed Ol’ Man River on their way to unknown lands teeming with hope and potential.

And so it is with baptism. Baptism is the sacrament that is the gateway to all other sacraments. We are fresh and new, full of faith and promise. Our baptism with water symbolizes our drowning/death of original sin (and all other sins committed up to that point in our lives) and our resurfacing/rebirth as a member of Christ’s family. We become permanent members of the Church and receive all the graces needed to carry out our mission: to live as saints and to spread the Good News. Our Baptism gives us supernatural life, that which will sustain our souls beyond our bodily death. Baptism also leads us to the other sacraments of initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist, giving us added strength and nourishment to complete our calling as priest, prophet, and king. Please feel welcome to join us on Sunday afternoon as we delve deeper into understanding our baptism. We will also be incorporating time for prayer and reflection to deepen our personal relationship with Christ.

Blessings,

 Julie Gould

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This Week:

 Sunday, Oct. 28, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: Bring the whole family- we’ve got something for everyone!

 Monday, Oct. 29, 7-8:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lakeview: Adult Enrichment class

 Wednesday, Oct. 31, 6-8 pm: Trunk or Treat in Fellowship Hall (This isn’t really related to Faith Formation, but it is a fun event that allows you to develop your friendship with fellow parishioners.)

* Thursday, Nov. 1, All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation.
	+ Christ the King: Mass @ 9 am, Eucharistic Adoration 9:30-4:00 pm
	+ St. Francis: Eucharistic Adoration 5:00-6:40 pm, Mass @ 7 pm.