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Seasoning the Seasons™

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Jack-O-Lanterns

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The carving of pumpkins, potatoes, and gourds is older than Christianity. However, with the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, everything takes on new meaning. We see this in Jack-O-Lanterns. No matter how scary, ugly, threatening or mean we make them, the Light of Christ shines inside. The Light of Christ gives them a softer, warmer look. The Light of Christ makes them attractive. So it is with us. No matter how hateful or sinful we might be at times, we still have the Light of Christ, given to us at our Baptism, burning inside us. If we remember this and try to live it, Christ will change us: we can be forgiven, our beauty can replace our sin, and God will be pleased to live with us forever in heaven's light.

The name "jack-o-lantern" might be a reference to Saint John the Baptist. Jack is a nickname for John. We know that Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus; he helped people to see Jesus when at last Jesus came. Lanterns help us see in the dark. Saint John the Baptist was a lantern announcing the Light, who is Christ.