



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the doorway to the other sacraments. Through baptism we are:

- Freed from sin;
- Reborn as a son or daughter of God;
- Become members of the Body of Christ,
- And become incorporated into the Church and her mission.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:3-4

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. -Matthew 28: 19

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

The meaning and grace of Baptism are clearly seen in the rite of celebration.

- **The sign of the cross**, on the threshold of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to Him.
- **The Proclamation of the Word** enlightens all with the revealed truth of Christ and elicits a response of faith. Baptism is the “sacrament of faith,” for it is the sacramental entry into the life of faith.
- **Prayer and the Litany of Saints** join us to the whole community of faith over the centuries, and in whom the newly baptized will be united.
- **An exorcism** is performed with prayer and anointing with the oil of catechumens, as the celebrant explicitly renounces Satan.
- **The baptismal water** is consecrated by a prayer of blessing, asking God to sanctify this water through which those being baptized will be reborn of “water and the Holy Spirit.”
- **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith:** Parents and godparents, on behalf of the child, reject sin and profess the faith of the Church in which they will raise their child.

- **The essential rite of Baptism** is performed, whether by triple immersion in the water, or by pouring water three times over the candidate's head with the words: (Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- **The Anointing with Sacred Chrism** signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized who has become a Christian; that is, one who is "anointed" by the Spirit and incorporated into Christ who was anointed Priest, Prophet and King.
- **The white garment** symbolizes that the person has "put on Christ," as St. Paul said.
- **The baptism candle** signifies that Christ has enlightened the new Christian, becoming a child of light.
- **The Our Father:** the newly baptized or his/her family is now a child of God entitled to pray "Our Father."
- **A Solemn Blessing** concludes the rite, with a special blessing for the mother.

PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith... Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

- **Teach them to pray....pray with them so they learn the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.**
- **Establish family traditions that teach the faith...rituals around key holidays, and grace before meals.**
- **Take them to Mass regularly.**
- **Enroll them in religious education or Catholic school.**
- **Talk about Christian values around the dinner table.**
- **Have family dinner and discuss their experiences.**
- **Monitor their circle of friends.**
- **Show them by your example!**
- **Children often trained by Mom, but watch carefully what Dad does.**
- **Your kids will hear what you say, but do what you do.....**

Homework: Have an explicit discussion on how you as parents will teach the practice of the faith to your children.