Sacrament of Baptism
Sacrament of Baptism

First sacrament of initiation

We receive sanctifying grace in our soul
  Prepares us for the reception of the other sacraments

It brings us into a new life with Christ
Baptism is based on Jewish Tradition

- Ancient Jews would bathe in ceremonial baths called mikvehs before they entered the Temple.
- John the Baptist baptized Jews in preparation for the coming of the Messiah
Jesus Said We Must Be Baptized

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:5
Baptism is needed to enter Heaven

- Baptism washes away the effects of Original Sin.
- We can enter Heaven if we have been baptized.
- Baptism washes away all the sins we have committed.
We acknowledge the need for Baptism at every Mass

“We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins”

Nicene Creed
What Makes a Baptism Valid?

Form
- Must use the words “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”

Matter
- Must have water. Any of following counts:
  - Submerged in water (Immersion)
  - Pouring water (Affusion)
  - Sprinkled with water (Aspersion)

Intent
- No one can be baptized unless they want to be baptized.
Baptism is Permanent

- Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (permanent) of his belonging to Christ.
- No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation.
- Baptism cannot be repeated.
Who can Baptize?

✝ The ordinary ministers of baptism are the Bishop, the Priest, and the Deacon
✝ In the case of necessity, anyone, even a non-baptized person can baptize someone as long as the form, matter and intent are followed.
Why do we get baptized as infants?
“Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit”
Mark 10:14

Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
Acts of the Apostles

“After she and her household had been baptized, she offered us an invitation, if you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my home, and she prevailed on us.” Acts 16:15

“He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once” Acts 16:33
“Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them”

St. Hippolytus, The Apostolic Tradition  AD 215

The Church received from the Apostles the tradition of giving baptism also to infants”

Origen, Commentary on Romans  AD 244
What the Church Teaches

- Baptism is necessary for salvation.
- Although we are born naturally of our human parents, Baptism gives us a new life.
- Few truths are so clearly taught in the New Testament as the doctrine that in baptism God gives us grace.
- Again and again the sacred writers tell us that it is in baptism that we are saved, buried with Christ, incorporated into his body, washed of our sins, regenerated, and cleansed.
They are unanimous in speaking of baptism as really bringing about a spiritual effect

Acts 2:38; Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16; Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name.
They are unanimous in speaking of baptism as really bringing about a spiritual effect

Rom. 6:1–4; What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.
They are unanimous in speaking of baptism as really bringing about a spiritual effect

1 Cor. 6:11; That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Cor. 12:13; For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.
What the Church Teaches

- They are unanimous in speaking of baptism as really bringing about a spiritual effect
- 1 Gal. 3:26–27; For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- Titus 3:5; Not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit.
What the Church Teaches

Many Protestant denominations regard baptism as an ordinance: an observance that brings no spiritual effect.

Its observance may be required by obedience, but it is not necessary for salvation. It is not baptism itself, but what baptism represents that really saves us.
The early Church Fathers were unanimous in affirming baptism is necessary for salvation.

- **Clement of Alexandria:**
- **Council of Constantinople I:**
- **Augustine:**
- **Early Church historian J. N. D. Kelly**
- **Martin Luther** (*Large Catechism* 4:6).
What the Church Teaches

† Born Again in Baptism
How many of you have been asked are you "born again"?
The problem is that Evangelicals and Catholics define the phrase "born again" two entirely different ways.
To an Evangelical the phrase means "to have a conversion experience" in which someone commits their very being to Christ or the acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior.
What the Church Teaches

✝ Born Again in Baptism
✝ Catholics will agree that in order to be saved a person MUST have an interior conversion to Christ.
✝ Salvation is a gift but attaining Heaven is work. Simply stated, we are saved ONLY by the grace we or gifts we receive through Christ via baptism.
✝ We get to heaven by listening to Mathew’s Gospel Chapter 25:31-46
What the Church Teaches

Does Baptism Assure Salvation?

Catholics do not believe that “baptism” automatically saves, no matter what.

The Church teaches that those of us old enough to know and understand the Lord – can actually sin and rupture our relationship with God. We MUST then be reconciled to Christ.

And so both Catholics and Evangelicals agree that we must be converted and we must be born again...
Does Baptism Assure Salvation?

In Mark 16:16 Jesus said as much when He said "He who believes and is baptized will be saved..." Faith AND baptism are both necessary.

Only death in a state of grace assures your salvation. Catholics believe you can destroy the life of grace by mortal sin.

Baptism assures that you have been regenerated or given the new life of grace.
What the Church Teaches

- Baptism brings us into the life of the Blessed Trinity. But it does not guarantee that we cannot, by some future act of free will, throw that new life away.

- This is why God has given us other sacraments to help us on the way to heaven. You are not finally and fully saved until you die in communion with Christ. But you die that way by living that way and returning to him in sacrament and prayer when you fall. We live in hope, not presumption.
What the Church Teaches

📍 Baptism: Immersion Only?
📍 Roman Catholics are usually baptized by infusion (pouring). But immersion (dunking) and sprinkling are also valid ways to baptize.
📍 Many Protestant Fundamentalists regard only baptism by immersion true baptism, and as a result feel Catholics are not validly baptized at all.
📍 The New Testament contains no explicit instructions on how to physically administer the water of baptism.
What the Church Teaches

Baptism: Immersion Only?
Case in point in Acts 1:4–5 Jesus charged his disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, ‘you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’" Did this mean they would be "immersed" in the Spirit? No: three times Acts 2 states that the Holy Spirit was *poured out* on them when Pentecost came (2:17, 18, 33, emphasis added).
What the Church Teaches

Baptism: Immersion Only?

Later Peter referred to the Spirit *falling* upon them, and also on others after Pentecost, explicitly identifying these events with the promise of being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 11:15–17). These passages demonstrate that the meaning of *baptizo* is broad enough to include "pouring."
Baptism: Immersion Only?

After Peter’s first sermon, three thousand people were baptized in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41). Archaeologists have demonstrated there was no sufficient water supply for so many to have been immersed. Even if there had been, the natives of Jerusalem would scarcely have let their city’s water supply be polluted by three thousand unwashed bodies plunging into it. These people must have been baptized by pouring or sprinkling.
Baptism: Immersion Only?
Even today practical difficulties can render immersion nearly or entirely impossible for some individuals: for example, people with certain medical conditions, desert nomads or Eskimos, or anyone where immersion is impractical or impossible for them?
What the Church Teaches

Baptism in the Early Church

The early Church permitted pouring instead of immersion is demonstrated by the Didache; a Syrian liturgical manual that was widely circulated among the churches in the first few centuries of Christianity (see handout).
What the Church Teaches

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Baptism in the Early Church

Then there is the artistic evidence. Much of the earliest Christian artwork depicts baptism—by water is poured over the head from a cup or shell.

Tile mosaics in ancient churches and paintings in the catacombs depict baptism by pouring.

An early Christian baptistery was found in a church in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth which was too small and narrow in which to immerse a person.
What the Church Teaches

 Infant Baptism

The Catholic Church’s practice of baptizing infants.
The Catholic Church has always understood Baptism is a sacrament which accomplishes several things, the first of which is the remission of sin, both original sin and actual sin—only original sin in the case of infants and young children, since they are incapable of actual sin; and both original and actual sin in the case of older persons.
What the Church Teaches

Infant Baptism
We do not believe that a child is born guilty of sin. However, because of the sin of Adam and Eve, the child is born with a "macula" (in Latin, a "dark spot") -- a lack of the light of God's grace in the soul (something the Virgin Mary did not lack).

This lack of God's light (grace) is why we have an inclination toward sin; and all people suffer from it. Yet, in Baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit, and become adopted sons and daughters of God.
What the Church Teaches

Infant Baptism

And this is why we believe that Baptism is a Sacrament. It is not something which we do to ourselves, but it's something that is done to us by God through the ministry of His Church.

The church believes that Baptism is not only a "washing away of sin" but that it is also the entering into a Covenant of Love with the Father.
Infant Baptism

In the Jewish tradition circumcision was something that was done to the child. The child did not choose to be initiated into the Chosen People of Israel. Yet this was what God commanded Abraham to do.
Infant Baptism
So, if this was possible for infants under the Old Jewish Covenant, how much more is it possible for the New Covenant we have in Christ Jesus, Who says:

"Let the children be, do not keep them back from me; the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Also, Luke 18:15 adds to this, saying how "They brought little children to Him."
Infant Baptism

There is no specific mention of infants being Baptized, we do see numerous allusions to it in Scripture. For example, after Peter gives his public address on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:37-39 tells us … 'Repent and be Baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to YOUR CHILDREN …
What the Church Teaches

† **Infant Baptism**
† Also, Scripture gives us numerous accounts of entire households being Baptized.
† Acts 16:14-15 -- "One of them, a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, a worshiper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she AND HER HOUSEHOLD had been baptized, she offered us an invitation ...."
Infant Baptism

Acts 16:30-33 --"Then he (the jailer) brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they (Paul & Silas) said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD will be saved.' So they spoke the Word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night (midnight, v. 25) and bathed their wounds; then he and ALL HIS FAMILY were baptized at once."
What the Church Teaches

† Infant Baptism
† Acts 18:8 --"Crispus, the synagogue official, came to believe in the Lord along with his ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD, and many of the Corinthians who heard believed and were baptized."
† See also Acts 10:24-27 & 10:44-48 where Peter Baptizes the entire family of Cornelius.
† But the Catholic Church has always held that Christ’s law applies to infants; “for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).
What the Church Teaches

➤ Baptism of Blood or Baptism of Desire
➤ There are exceptions to water baptism: It is possible to be saved through "baptism of blood," martyrdom for Christ, or through "baptism of desire", that is, an explicit or even implicit desire for baptism.
What the Church Teaches

✝ Baptism of Blood or Baptism of Desire
✝ The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "Those who die for the faith, those who are catechumens, and all those who, without knowing of the Church but acting under the inspiration of grace, seek God sincerely and strive to fulfill his will, are saved even if they have not been baptized" (CCC 1281; the salvation of unbaptized infants is also possible under this system; cf. CCC 1260–1, 1283).
What the Church Teaches

† How to Grow in the Gifts of Baptism

† How do we grow in our faith? We grow in our faith
  † by studying our faith and by putting what we believe
    into generous, even heroic practice.
† Study has to be joined with prayer.
† In order to grow in the faith, we must use it as we saw in last
  weeks Gospel of the master the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
What the Church Teaches

† How to Grow in the Gifts of Baptism
† We believe that Christ is really, truly and entirely present in the Holy Eucharist. We should act accordingly by visiting Him often in the Blessed Sacrament where we adore Him, telling Him how much we love Him and asking Him for whatever we need. That is why He is there, the same Jesus who raised the dead. If He worked miracles then, trust Him, He will work miracles now.