

The Rite of Baptism

The parents and godparents, with the children, assemble inside the main doors of the church. All others are seated near the baptismal font. Since baptism represents the entrance into God's Church, it is appropriate that the ceremony begins by the church doors. The presider will greet the parents and godparents. The rite begins,

Presider: What name do you give your child?

Parents: *State the name.*

Presider: What do you ask of God's church for (*name*)?

Parents: *Baptism.*

Presider: You have asked to have your children baptized. In so doing, you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: *We do.*

Presider: Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: *We are.*

The presider then invites the parents and godparents to trace the sign of the cross on the child's forehead. Then all proceed to the front of the church where they are seated for the Liturgy of the Word. This will include a reading from the Gospel and a homily

The presider will offer the Prayer of the Faithful for the children to be baptized, for their families, the local parish, and the universal Church. The response is, "Lord, hear our prayer."

The presider will then offer a prayer to the holy saints who reside with God our father. The response is, "Pray for us."

The presider will call forward the children, their parents and grandparents for anointing with the Oil of Catechumens on the breastbone. He will then bless the water of baptism

Immediately prior to the baptism itself, the presider will ask the parents and godparents to reaffirm or profess their own faith.

Presider: Do you reject Satan?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: And all his works?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: And all his empty promises?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: Do you believe in God, the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Parents and Godparents: *I do.*

Presider: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

The celebrant then invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:

Presider: Is it your will that N. should be baptized in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

Parents and Godparents: *It is.*

Presider baptizes the child: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The presider anoints the child with Chrism on the crown of the head.

Presider: God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

All: *Amen.*

The presider clothes the child with a white garment.

Presider: You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourselves in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: *Amen.*

The presider presents the family with the baptismal candle.

Presider: Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours have been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

All: *Amen.*

The presider touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb.

Presider: The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

All: *Amen.*

Presider: You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia.

The presider invites those present to join in the Lord's Prayer:

All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.*

The presider offers a blessing for the mother and the father of the child, then a final blessing for everyone present:

Presider: By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon this daughters/son of his. May he make her/him always, wherever she/he may be, a faithful member of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Presider: May almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen.*