

Rite of Baptism

Communal Celebration

If possible, Baptism should take place on Sunday, the day on which the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery – the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. It should be conferred in a communal celebration for all the recently born children, and in the presence of the faithful, or at least relatives, friends, and neighbors, who are all to take an active part in the rite. (Rite of Baptism for Children, #32)

Greeting

The celebrant greets all present, and especially the parents and godparents, reminding them briefly of the joy with which the parents welcomed their children as a gift from God, the Source of Life, Who now wishes to bestow His own life on these little ones. (Rite of Baptism for Children, #36)

Naming Your Child

Celebrant: What name do you give your child?

Parents: [Say your child's name]

Q. Why did you give your child his/her name?

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for [name]?

Parents: Baptism

Q. Why do you want to have your child baptized?

Training in the practice of the Faith

Celebrant: You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so 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 neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Q. What hopes do you have for your child?

Q. What expectations do you have for yourself as a parent?

Q. What are some ways you will train your child in the practice of the faith?

To the Godparents...

Celebrant: Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?

Godparents: We are.

Q. Why did you choose your child's godparents?

Q. What expectations do you have for your child's godparents?

The Sign of the Cross

Celebrant: My dear children, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior by the Sign of the Cross. I now trace the cross on your foreheads, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same.

Q. What does the cross mean to you?

Q. Do you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home?

Liturgy of the Word

Readings, Psalm, Gospel

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Celebrant: You have come here to present these children for Baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life that God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own Baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Parents & all present: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Parents & all present: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Parents & all present: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty; creator of heaven and earth?

Parents & all present: I do.

Celebrant: 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 & all present: I do.

Celebrant: 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 & all present: I do.

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

Parents & all present: I do.

Celebrant: Amen.

Q. How do you proudly profess your faith through your life?

Procession to the Font for Baptism

Celebrant: Is it your will that [name] be baptized in the faith of the Church, which we have just professed?

Parents & godparents: It is.

Celebrant: *as he pours water over the child* [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. How have you experienced water as symbol of God's life?

Q. When have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Anointing after Baptism

Celebrant: The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.

He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is priest, prophet, and King.

All: Amen.

Q. As a parent, how do you act as...

Priest – What sacrifices do you make for your child?

Prophet – How do you express and share your faith with your child?

King – How do you serve your child?

Clothing with a White Garment

Celebrant: [Name], you have become a new creation, and have clothes 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.

Q. What are some ways you can help your child realize and live his/her Christian dignity?

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of a Lighted Candle

Celebrant: *The father or godfather is given the lighted baptismal candle.* Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the Saints of the heavenly kingdom.

Q. How do you recognize the Light of Christ in yourself and in your child?

Q. How is your faith like a flame? How will you keep that flame burning?

Blessing & Dismissal

The Sacrament of Baptism

Symbol	Theology	Responsibilities of Parents
Sign of the Cross	Claimed for Christ; symbol of love of Jesus	Welcoming baby; Recognizing your baby as a gift from God
Water	Participation in the death & resurrection of Christ; new birth into God's family	Recognizing your baby as a child of God
Oil of Chrism	Anointing as priest, prophet, king; participation in the life, practices & mission of Christ's Church	Live a life of sacrifice, spirituality, service; participate in life of the Church – Mass, Sacraments, rituals & activities; recognize & develop your child's gifts; practice everyday faith/faith everyday
White garment	Cleansed of sin; outward sign of Christian dignity	Practice forgiveness & share unconditional love; Provide faith-filled discipline and loving encouragement
Candle	Light of Christ, Grace/Presence of God, Dwelling of the Holy Spirit	Let Holy Spirit guide you; share Christ's light with your child & with others in all aspects of your everyday life