

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

Celebrant: What name have you given your child?

Parents: N.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents: Baptism.

The celebrant speaks to the parents in these or similar words:

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

Parents: We do.

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents and addresses them in these or similar words:

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

Godparents: We are.

The Celebrant continues:

N., the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same.

He signs the child on the forehead, in silence. Then he invites the parents and the godparents to do the same.

The Liturgy of the Word (Readings from Scripture)

And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Intercessions (Bidding Prayers)

My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child who is to be baptized, on his (her) parents and godparents, and on all the baptized.

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this child in light, give him (her) the new life of baptism and welcome him (her) into your holy Church.
Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God’s kingdom. Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child. Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Keep his (her) family always in your love. Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

INVOCATION OF THE SAINTS

The celebrant next invites all present to invoke the saints:

Holy Mary, Mother of God.

All: Pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist.

All: Pray for us.

Saint Joseph.

All: Pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

All: Pray for us.

The names of other saints may be added, especially the patrons of the child to be baptized, and of the church or locality. The litany concludes:

All holy men and women.

All: Pray for us.

PRAYER OF EXORCISM

After the invocation, the celebrant says:

Almighty and ever-living God,
you sent your only Son into the world
to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil,
to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness,
and bring him into the splendor of your kingdom of light.
We pray for this child:
set him (her) free from original sin,
make him (her) a temple of your glory,
and send your Holy Spirit to dwell with him (her).
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

ANOINTING BEFORE BAPTISM

The celebrant continues:

We anoint you with the oil of salvation
in the name of Christ our Savior;
may he strengthen you with his power,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

He anoints the child on the breast with the oil of catechumens.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

My dear brothers and sisters, God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him. Let us turn to him, and ask him to pour his gift of life from this font on this child he has chosen.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism; O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify; O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue; O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized; O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism. May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

During the Easter season, if there is baptismal water already blessed, the celebrant uses the following formula:

You called your child **N.**, to this cleansing water, that he (she) may share in the faith of your Church and eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead him (her) to a new and spiritual birth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The celebrant speaks to the parents and godparents in these words:

Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.

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.

The celebrant questions the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:

Celebrant:

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

Parents and Godparents: 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 and Godparents: 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 the life everlasting?

Parents and Godparents: 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.

All: Amen.

BAPTISM

Celebrant:

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.

He baptizes the child, saying:

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

EXPLANATORY RITES

ANOINTING AFTER BAPTISM

The God of power and 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.

CLOTHING WITH THE WHITE GARMENT

N., you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself 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.

LIGHTED CANDLE

The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says:

Receive the light of Christ.

Someone from the family (such as the father or godfather) lights the child's candle from the Easter candle.

The celebrant then says:

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has 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.

EPHPHETHA OR PRAYER OVER EARS AND MOUTH

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.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He (she) is now called the child of God, for so indeed he (she) is. In confirmation he (she) will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion he (she) will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his (her) Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of this child, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

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.

BLESSING

Celebrant:

God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child,
has brought joy to all Christian mothers,
as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children.
May he bless the mother of this child.
She now thanks God for the gift of her child.
May she be one with him (her)
in thanking him for ever in heaven,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant:

God is the giver of all life, human and divine.
May he bless the father of this child.
He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.
May they be also the best of teachers,
bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant:

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 these sons and daughters of his.

May he make them always, wherever they may be,
faithful members of his holy people.

May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant:

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.