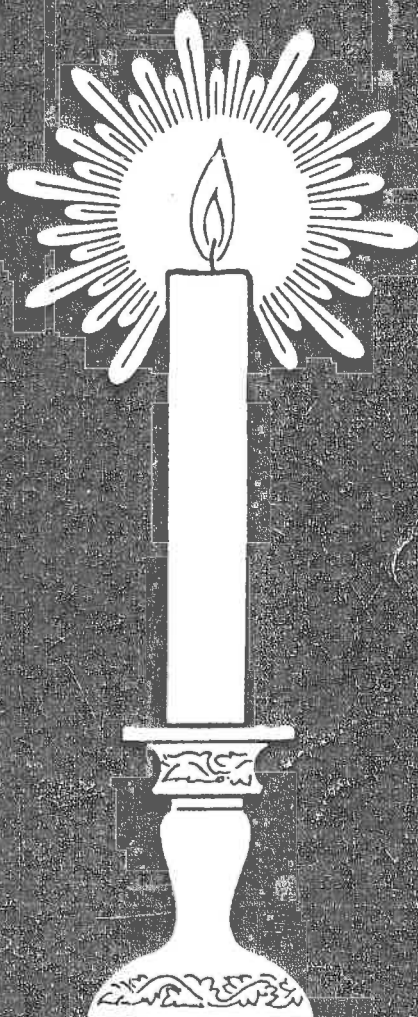


RITE OF BAPTISM



Rite of Baptism for One Child

Reception of the child

The priest greets all present, and especially the parents and godparents, reminding them briefly of the joy with which the parents welcomed this child as a gift from God, the source of life, who now wishes to bestow his own life on this little one.

First the priest questions the parents:

Priest: **What name have you given your child?**

Parents: N

Priest: **What do you ask of God's Church for N?**

Parents: **Baptism**

The priest may choose other words for this dialogue.

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

Priest: **You have asked to have your child baptised. 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 priest turns to the godparents and addresses them in these or similar words:

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

The Godparents reply:

We are.

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The priest continues:

Priest: 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 (if it seems appropriate) the godparents to do the same.

Celebration of God's Word Scriptural Readings and Homily

One or even two of the following gospel passages are read,
during which all may sit if convenient.

John 3: 1-6	The meeting with Nicodemus.
Matthew 28: 18-20	The apostles are sent to preach the gospel and to baptize.
Mark 1: 9-11	The baptism of Jesus
Mark 10: 13-16	Let the little children come to me.

After the reading, the priest gives a short homily, explaining to those present the significance of what has been read. His purpose will be to lead them to a deeper understanding of the mystery of baptism and to encourage the parents and godparents to a ready acceptance of the responsibilities which arise from the sacrament.

Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)

Then the prayer of the faithful is said:

Priest: 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.

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Leader: 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.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep his (her) family always in your love.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The priest next invites all present to invoke the saints:

Priest
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Saint Joseph
Saint John the Baptist
Saint Peter and Saint Paul

All
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us

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

Priest

All you saints of God.

All

Pray for us.

Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism

After the invocation, the priest says:

**Priest: 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 us from the kingdom of darkness,
and bring us into the splendour 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.

The priest may continue:

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

All: Amen.

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

or:

The priest may omit the anointing and say:

Priest: May you have strength in the power of Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

And immediately he lays his hand on the head of the child in silence.

Then they go to the baptistry, or to the sanctuary when baptism is celebrated there on occasion.

Celebration of the Sacrament

When they come to the font, the priest briefly reminds the congregation of the wonderful work of God whose plan is to bring us into the life of Christ through the waters of baptism. He may use these or similar words.

Priest: My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water

Then, turning to the font, he says the following blessing (OUTSIDE THE EASTER SEASON):

Priest: Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power.

In baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness.

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The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism. .

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of baptism.

By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son.

You created us in your own likeness; cleanse us from sin in a new birth to innocence by water and the Spirit.

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

We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

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

Priest: Dear parents and godparents: You have come 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 priest questions the parents and godparents.

Priest: Do you reject Satan?

Parents and Godparents: I do

Priest: and all his works?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: And all his empty promises?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Next the priest asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents.

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

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Priest: **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.**

Priest: **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**

The priest and the congregation give their assent to this profession of faith:

Priest: **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

The priest invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:

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

The Parents and Godparents reply:
It is.

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He baptizes the child, saying:

Priest: **N. I baptize you in the name of the Father,**

He immerses the child or pours water upon it.
and of the Son,

He immerses the child or pours water upon it a second time.
and of the Holy Spirit.

He immerses the child or pours water upon it a third time.

Anointing with Chrism

Then the priest says:

Priest: **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.**

Then the priest anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism, in silence.

Clothing with the white garment

The priest says:

Priest: **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**

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your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the ever lasting life of heaven.

All: Amen.

The white garment is put on the child. A different colour is not permitted unless demanded by local custom. It is desirable that the family provide the garment.

Lighted Candle

The priest takes the Easter candle and says:

Priest: 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 priest then says:

Priest: 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 priest is free to include or omit this rite. The priest touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:

Priest: 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

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praise and glory of God the Father.

All: Amen.

Conclusion of the Rite Lord's Prayer

The priest stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, godparents, and the whole assembly in these or similar words:

Priest: 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 the children of God, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

All present join the priest in singing or saying:

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

Blessing

The Priest first blesses the mother, who holds the child in her arms, then the father, and lastly the entire assembly:

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Priest: 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.

Priest: 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.

Priest: 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.