

Called to Conversion

If I am to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, if I am to live out my baptismal calling, I must continually change for the better. I must grow. I must daily change my mind and heart and believe the Good News (Mark 1:15). I must continually seek to change my evil ways; I must change my good ways to better ways. I must live a life of gospel penance (conversion).

In Baptism I am washed clean. But I live in a world marked by evil; I experience all sorts of inclinations to evil; I do evil; I commit sin. So I must struggle to follow Jesus. I need the grace of the Spirit to overcome evil and make good choices.

I am called to enter daily into the dying of Jesus, so as to share ever more in his risen life. Little by little I become holy, more and more alive in Jesus. I grow in responding to the grace of the Holy Spirit. I grow in making good choices, seeking the Father's will in my daily life.

A Lifelong Journey

Our journey begins with an invitation, a call from God through the Christian community to live the gospel as committed disciples of Christ.

*This section has been taken from 'Catholic Update guide to Baptism' by Kendzia

Did you Know?

Baptism is not just a call to membership in the church but a call to discipleship. Disciples of the Lord are called to carry on his work – the work of the church. Those called by God to baptism are chosen to know Christ, to live by his teaching and to give witness to his ongoing presence in the world in every age. They are called to speak the truth in season and out, to work for peace and justice, to defend the poor and the helpless, to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to do whatever helps to bring about the kingdom of God in our world.

*Forming the Assembly to celebrate the Sacraments
by Lawrence E. Mick

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the day of my liberation, the day of my Baptism. Thank you for changing my narrative from one of the mirage of self-sufficiency to one in which I can rely on you for rescue, restoration, and reassurance. Grant me the grace I need each day to overcome the dysfunction of sin. May my Baptism continue to color my world so that I recognize you and your grace in all things.

Thank you for making me your adopted child through Baptism, which has elevated me from one of your creatures to one of your children. Waters of Baptism, wash over me daily. Oil of Baptism, get under my skin. Fire of Baptism, melt my heart. Garment of Baptism, clothe me in grace. Amen.

*Living the Sacraments by Joe Paprocki

The Sacrament of Baptism



“Every time you allow your life to be coloured by God, you are experiencing the fruits of Baptism – the beginning of a relationship that is forever young, forever fresh, forever new, and forever beautiful.”

*Living the Sacraments by Joe Paprocki



*Roman Catholic
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Celebrate Christ! From Water to Life

baptism



Christians are baptized because Jesus himself was baptized in the Jordan River and commanded his disciples to go forth and make disciples of all nations by baptizing in the name of the Trinity. Baptism is absolutely essential for anybody who wishes to be a disciple of Christ... This sacrament forgives all sins, bestows unfathomable grace, and permanently incorporates those who are baptized into the Body of Christ. Most Christian denominations consider Baptism necessary for salvation. It forever marks one for Christ as a member of his Church.

In Romans 6:1-11, St. Paul reminds us that Baptism has effected a very real change in baptized persons and demands they live and engage in the world differently. The one who enters the waters of Baptism intimately shares in Christ's suffering, death, and Resurrection; that is, the Paschal Mystery...

The baptized are forever changed and now share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly ministry of Jesus Christ.

*Guide for Celebrating Infant Baptism: Second Edition, published by Liturgy Training Publications

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213 describes Baptism like this:

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons {and daughters} of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.”



Why does the Order of Baptism occur at different places in the church?

The processional and stational nature of the baptismal rites has great symbolic importance. First, it embodies that Christians are a pilgrim people, moving together toward God. Second, it enables the primary symbols to speak: the door of the church is where we are welcomed from the world into the house of God; the ambo is where the Word of God is proclaimed; the font is where we are washed and reborn and welcomed as Christians; the altar is from where we are strengthened, nourished, and sent forth to do God's work in the world. Moving from place to place emphasizes the unique symbolic importance of each of these elements.



The role of a godparent after the Celebration of Baptism

A godparent (or sponsor) “helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it. There are many ways in which godparents can do this, but above all, godparents should be living examples of faith for the godchildren. Attending Mass together, giving religious gifts, serving others in Christian charity as their godchildren grow older, and participating at liturgies when their godchildren celebrate the other sacraments are all ways that godparents can fulfill their role after the Baptism.

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