



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

OVERVIEW OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE RITUAL AND THEIR MEANING

The Sign of the Cross: The presider will trace the Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead to symbolize that in Baptism this child is claimed for Christ. All who are signed by the cross are marked as followers of Jesus. Parents and Godparents are invited to trace the Sign of the Cross on the child's forehead as well.

Litany of the Saints: As Catholics, we believe that the entire Christian community is present with us in the Holy Spirit to rejoice with us at each and every Baptism. This includes not only Christians living today, but also all of the holy men and women who have gone before us who were models of Christian discipleship. We begin every Baptism celebration by asking these saints to be with us and pray for us.

Prayer of Exorcism: We ask that God free your child from original sin and fill your child with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This prayer's name is "exorcism", but it is nothing more than a prayer-request on the part of the Church that God free and protect the child from all effects of sin and evil.

Anointing with Oil of Catechumens: The custom of anointing those to be baptized continues today in the use of a special oil for adults who are in the catechumenate. This oil is also used in the Baptism of infants, although the rite allows for this to be replaced by a simple laying on of hands by the presider.

Blessing of the Baptismal Water: The presider asks God to send His Holy Spirit upon the waters of the baptismal font. Water is the primary symbol of this sacrament.

Renunciation of Sin/ Profession of Faith: The parents and godparents are again reminded of their responsibilities to present and model the faith to this child. They are reminded of their own dignity as sons and daughters of God as they reject sin and profess the Catholic faith.

Baptism: "....., I Baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Anointing with Chrism: Your child will be anointed on the head with sacred chrism, a perfumed oil blessed by the bishop once a year during Holy Week. This anointing represents our joining with Christ in his roles as priest, prophet and king. In Greek, the word *Christ* means "anointed."

White Garment: The white garment stresses the Christian dignity of the newly-baptized as one who is "clothed in Christ." A parent is always sure to be concerned that their child is properly clothed for every season and occasion. You now make the commitment to help them stay "clothed in Christ."

Baptism Candle: This candle is lit from the Paschal (Easter) candle and symbolizes that your child now possesses the light of Christ in his/her heart. A baby cannot carry this candle, so the light is entrusted to the parents and godparents.

Prayers over the Ears and Mouth: *Ephphetha* is an Aramaic word that means "Be opened." The prayer asks that the child will be opened to hearing the Good News of Jesus and proclaiming it to others.

Blessing of the Parents: We end with a prayer of blessing for the parents. By living out their vocation of parenthood, they respond to the grace of their own Baptism and Confirmation. They are the first teachers of their child.