

Concerning the Service

In Holy Baptism, the outward and visible sign is water, in which candidates are baptized “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on Sunday or other Holy Day. In this way the Congregation may welcome the newly baptized into Christ's Church, and may be reminded of the benefits which they themselves received and the profession which they made in Holy Baptism.

The bishop, when present, is normally the celebrant.

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons, who are themselves committed to Christ and commended by the example of their own holy living. Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and encouragement in the Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates.

Godparents and sponsoring parents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of the Church.

Celebrant Have you already been baptized?
Candidate No.
Celebrant Do you desire to be baptized?
Candidate I do.

Infants and Younger Children

Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Godparents and Sponsoring Parents, using full names, as follows

I present N.N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When the following promises are made by Godparents and Sponsoring Parents of infants or young children, the Celebrant addresses them

Today, on behalf of *this child*, you shall make vows to renounce the devil and all his works, to trust God wholeheartedly, and to serve him faithfully. It is your task to see that *this child* is taught, as soon as *he is* able to learn, the meaning of all these vows, and of the Faith that you will profess as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. *He* must come to put *his* trust in Jesus, and learn the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know, believe, and do for the welfare of *his soul*. When *he* has embraced all these, having become a disciple of Jesus, *he is* to come to the Bishop to be confirmed, that *he* may claim the Faith for *his* own and be further strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ and his Kingdom.

Are you willing and ready to undertake this?

Godparents and Sponsoring Parents

I am, the Lord being my helper.

Profession of Faith

The Celebrant then examines the Candidates who can speak for themselves, and the Godparents and Sponsoring Parents who will speak on behalf of infants or young children, saying

Question Do you renounce the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

The Celebrant shall pray over the Candidate(s) and may anoint each candidate with the Oil of Exorcism, saying

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant continues

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer I do.

Question Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, first inviting them to stand.

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons in their* life in Christ?

The Congregation responds

We will.

The Celebrant then says

Let us join with these candidates to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

People I do.

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People I do.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried: He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People I do.

I 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. Amen.

Prayer for the Candidates

The Celebrant now prays for the candidates as follows

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon *this* your *servant*. Wash and sanctify *him* through your Holy Spirit, that *he* may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, *he* may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving Over the Water

If there is a procession to the baptismal font, a Psalm, anthem, or hymn may be sung.

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, pours the water for baptism.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is just and right so to do.

The Celebrant continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Here the Celebrant touches the water and says

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptism

The Celebrant says to the sponsors,

Name this *Candidate/Child*.

Then the Celebrant immerses the candidate or pours water upon the candidate three times, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized (and may use the Oil of Chrism to do so), saying

N., receive the sign of the Cross as a token of your new life in Christ, in which you shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight bravely under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful servant to the end of your days. *Amen.*

or this

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. *Amen.*

When all have been baptized and signed (and candles have been presented), the Celebrant says

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, received them as your own children by adoption, made them members of your Church, and raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that they may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant continues

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People We receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

The Peace is now exchanged

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with your spirit.

Additional Directions

In the absence of a bishop, a priest is the celebrant and presides at the liturgy. If a priest uses Chrism in signing the newly baptized, it must have been previously consecrated by the bishop.

In the absence of a bishop or priest, the bishop may specially authorize and delegate a deacon to preside. In that case, the deacon omits the prayer for the candidates, the thanksgiving over the water, and the anointing with Chrism. These omitted portions of the rite may be administered on some subsequent occasion of public baptism at which a bishop or priest presides.

If desired, the hymn *Gloria in excelsis* (or another song of praise) may be sung immediately after the opening versicles and before the salutation "The Lord be with you."

If the Presentation of the Candidates does not take place at the font, then the ministers, candidates, and sponsors go to the font for the Thanksgiving over the Water. If the movement to the font is a formal procession, a suitable psalm (such as Psalm 42), or a hymn or anthem, may be sung.

Where practicable, the font is to be filled with clean water immediately before the Thanksgiving over the Water.

At the Thanksgiving over the Water, and at the administration of Baptism, the celebrant, whenever possible, should face the people across the font, and the sponsors should be so grouped that the people may have a clear view of the action.

After the baptism and signing, and prior to the giving of the candle (if there be one), a white garment may be placed upon the newly baptized. The Celebrant says, "Receive this white garment as a token of the righteousness given you by God's grace in this Sacrament of Baptism, and as a sign that you should always give yourself to holy living for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*"

The Deacon or Celebrant may light a candle from the Paschal Candle and give it to the newly baptized, saying, "N., receive the light of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

If there is no celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the liturgy continues with the Lord's Prayer. Other appropriate prayers may be added.

Conditional Baptism

If there is reasonable doubt that a person has been baptized with water “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” the person is baptized in the usual manner, but this form of words is used.

If you are not already baptized, N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Emergency Baptism

In case of emergency, any baptized person may administer Baptism, using the given name of the one baptized (if known), and pouring water on him or her, saying,

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

The Lord’s Prayer is then said. Other prayers may be added.

The person who administers emergency Baptism should inform the priest of the appropriate parish, so that the fact can be properly recorded. If the baptized person recovers, the Baptism should be recognized at a public celebration of the Sacrament with a bishop or priest presiding, and the person baptized under emergency conditions, together with the sponsors or godparents, taking part in everything except the administration of the water.