

Called By Name:

Into a New Life With Christ



But now, thus said the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you: in the river you shall not drown.

Isaiah 43:1-2

## Prayer for a Newborn Child

*God's greatest blessing is the gift of a child.*

### **Reading**

"Mary set out in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

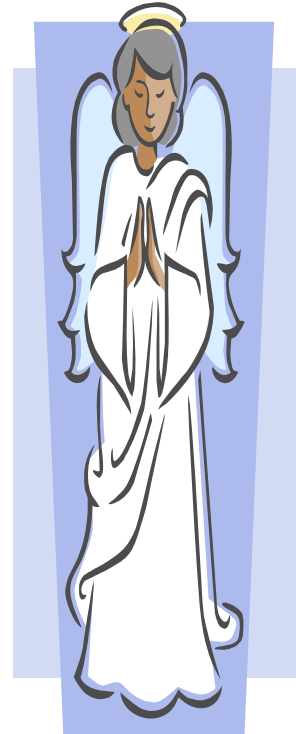
And Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'" Luke 1:39-49

### **Reflection**

God's greatest gift to a man and woman is the blessing of a child. A mother is touched by the love of God in a unique way when a child comes to life within her. When her child stirs in the first movements of new life, she becomes part of God's greatest miracle. Her child is completely new, yet so close to her that she hardly can distinguish her child from herself. This child makes her life a circle of love. It is a circle made complete by God, and as long as God is present, this circle of love will be unbroken.

### **Prayer**

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. God our Father, you bestow your greatest blessing on us when you call upon us to take part in the miracle of bringing new life into the world. You fill us with wonder as we watch this life grow from its very beginning. And you teach us to love as we love this child whom you entrust to our care. We give you thanks for this gift of life, and as we cherish this gift, we ask you to encircle us always with your fatherly love. Amen."



# God Parents and Sponsors

## Sponsors

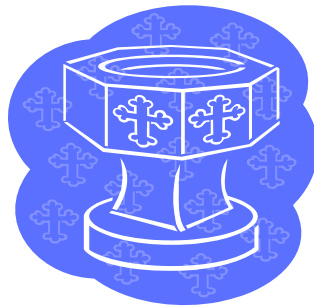
The sponsor who assumes the responsibility to assist the newly baptized on the road of Christian life is called a godparent.

The godparent of a child assists parents to:

- Nurture faith in order to become a disciple of Christ.
- Teach the traditions of the Catholic faith.
- Model for the child how to live the Catholic faith.

The Catholic Church requires that each baptized person have a sponsor. One godparent must be a fully initiated Catholic, 16 years of age or older, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Traditionally, there are 2 godparents, one male and one female.

What is a Christian Witness? A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be invited to serve as a sponsor who will serve as a Christian witness. They are to participate in the celebration and will stand with the parents at the baptismal ceremony.



# Reflection

How are the potential godparents living their lives as good Christians?

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How is at least one of the godparents practicing his or her Catholic faith?

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How would the godparents support you in raising your child in the Catholic faith?

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Are the godparents you are considering available for a life-long commitment?

# Baptism Class

Baptism is the start of the child's spiritual life. The physical birth marks the beginning of a child's physical life; baptism marks the beginning of the child's Christian life. It all takes place in a world that God has created. Baptism is called "the gateway to life in the Spirit."

(cc 1213)



## Part 1: Baptism

Welcome and Introductions  
Christian Witness  
Personal Reflection  
Brief History of Baptism  
Godparents  
Faith Sharing

## Part 2: Our Response to God

Reading Sacred Scripture  
Reflection on God's Word  
The Seven Sacraments  
What Does it Mean to be a part of God's Church?  
What's going on in your parish?

## Part 3: Signs and Symbols of Baptism

Priest, Prophet and King  
The Rite of Baptism  
    The Symbols of Baptism  
    The Movie  
    The Rite  
Evaluation and Closing Prayer

# Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Let us begin our time together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** Opening Prayer.

**Reader:** Matthew 28:18–20. The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** What name will you give your child?

**All:** (Each takes a turn saying the child's name out loud.)

**Leader:** What will you ask of God's Church for your child?

**All:** Baptism.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Lord God, we ask to have our children baptized. In doing so, we accept the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. We will bring them up to keep your commandments, as Jesus taught us, by loving you and one another. We ask not only your help but the help of our families and godparents. May they support us, along with the Christian community, as Christ claims our children by the sign of the cross. We pray this through Jesus, our savior and brother who lives and reigns with you in power of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

# What is Baptism

1. What does baptism mean to you?

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Why do you want your baby baptized?

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Who will be involved with the baptism? (friends, family, etc.)

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How do you plan to celebrate the day?

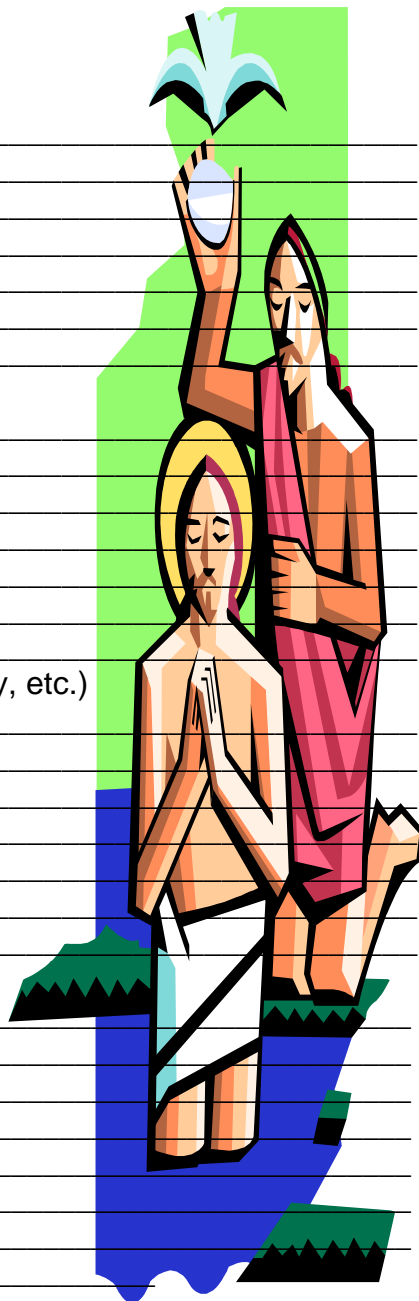
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## **A Brief History of Baptism**

Pre-Christian Era: The Jewish culture utilized water rituals calling for people to repent and to reform their lives.

A.D. 27: Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist and begins his public ministry.

A.D. 30–300: Apostolic Tradition for baptism: Luke 18: 15-16, Acts 2:38-39, 16:33, 1 Cor: 1:16, Col 2: 11-12, and 1 Peter 3:21. All those in the Christian community who accepted the invitation of Christ became candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). This process is the model for an adult or child having attained the age of reason to become a member of the Catholic Faith Community today.

A.D. 313: Joining the Church became less dangerous and politically acceptable. Those who requested baptism were baptized, along with their households.

A.D. 500: The Sacraments of Initiation became separate for individuals and were celebrated at different times.

1513: Council of Trent affirms that infants may be baptized.

1963: The Vatican 11 Council reaffirms infant baptism.







# Hopes and Dreams

In what ways do you hope God will bless your child throughout his or her life?

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What kind of experiences do you want your child to have with God?

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# Priest Prophet and King

All Catholic men and women share in the threefold ministry of Christ. Catholic men and women, by virtue of their baptism and affirmed in confirmation, are empowered in Christ through the Holy Spirit to be priests, prophets, and kings and thus to share in the Church's ministry. *Lumen Gentium* in the Vatican II documents states that, in collaboration with their bishops and clergy, "the faithful who by baptism are incorporated into Christ are placed in the people of God and in their own way share the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ—and to the best of their ability carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world" (31).

1. Is there someone you know who is a committed Christian? How does their faith show in their everyday life?

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2. Describe someone you know who is a prophet—someone who lives his life as a person telling the good news of Jesus Christ. How does this person act?

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3. Describe someone you know who is conscientious and self-governing—someone who lives his or her life caring about others. What does this person say that makes you feel this way about him?

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# Symbols Of Baptism

**The Sign of the Cross:** The minister will trace the sign of the cross on the child's forehead as a sign that the child is being claimed for Christ. All those who are signed by the cross are claimed as disciples of the Lord. The parents and the godparents will be asked to do the same.

**Litany of the Saints:** As Catholics, we believe in community: that is, the living and deceased community. Together, we are the community of saints. The saints are people who live or have lived life as true disciples of Jesus. They are our models for living. We ask that all the saints join us and pray with us for the child being baptized.

**Anointing with Oil:** The child is anointed during the baptismal ceremony. He or she is anointed with the Oil of Chrism, which is blessed at the Chrism Mass (during Holy Week before Easter). The baby may be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, and the priest calls upon Christ to strengthen the one being baptized.

**Baptismal Water:** The water is the central symbol in the sacrament. Your child is washed free from sin and raised to new life with Christ. In baptism, the child is raised up to new life in Christ.

**White Garment:** The white garment symbolizes being clothed in Jesus. It recognizes that we all share the life of the risen Christ. It also symbolizes Christian dignity and our spotless condition when all sin has been removed. The godmother places the garment on the child.

**Baptism Candle:** The baptismal candle is lit from the Easter Pascal candle, which is the candle of the risen Christ. The lighting of this candle is done by the godfather to show that the child possesses the light of Christ in his or her heart. It is the responsibility of the parent and the godparents to keep that light alive for the child.

**Prayer over Ears and Mouth, or "Ephphetha":** The word "ephphetha" means "be open" in Aramaic. This blessing is used as the priest touches the ears and the mouth of the child so that the child will be open to hear the good news of Jesus and proclaim it to others.



# The Baptismal Rite

Baptisms take place during Sunday liturgy, at which the community celebrates the Pascal Mystery. It is a celebration for the faithful to welcome the new members of the Church.

## **Opening Rites: The Reception of the Child/ren**

Parents, godparents, and the child are welcomed into the Church at the entrance of the church.

Priest: What name do you give your child?

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ (full name)

Priest: What do you ask of God's Church for (Name)?

Parents: Baptism

Priest to the godparents:

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

Godparents: We are.

Priest: Signs the child with the sign of the cross and invites the parents and godparents to do the same.

Please process, reverence the Altar, and go to your reserved pew.

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **The Rite of Baptism**

After the homily, the priest will call you to the baptismal font.

### **The Litany of Saints.**

### **The Renunciation of Sin and The Profession of Faith**

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

### **Blessing of the Water.**

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

Parents and godparents: It is.

The priest then baptizes the baby by pouring water over the child's head in the name of

**The Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Assembly sings: Alleluia**

### **Anointing with Sacred Chrism.**

### **White Garment**

The white garment is put on the child by the godmother.

### **Lighted Candle**

Priest: Receive the light of Christ.

The godfather lights the baptismal candle from the Pascal candle.

### **Blessing**

Father blesses the mother and then the father and the entire assembly.

Parents, godparents, and child return to their seats.

### **The Liturgy of the Word continues with The Prayer of the Faithful**



# Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

**Presider:** Do you reject Satan?

**Response:** I do.

**P:** And all his works?

**R:** I do.

**P:** And all his empty promises?

**R:** I do.

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

**R:** I do.

**P:** 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?

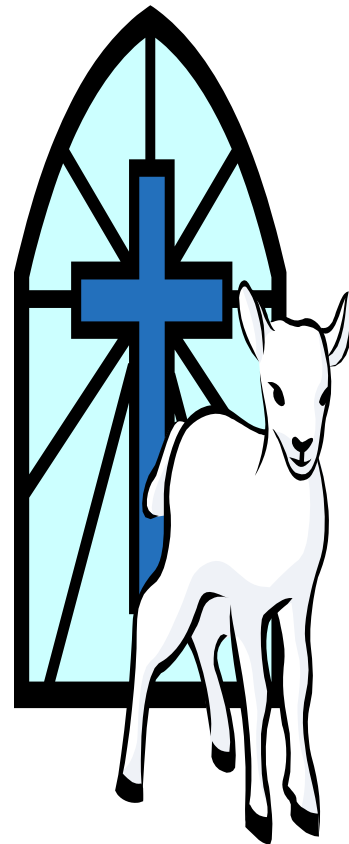
**R:** I do.

**P:** 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?

**R:** I do.

**P:** God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.



Notes

# Reflection

After reflecting on the session that we had, go back through your answers to the questions and compare your answers to the ones you did on page 6.

1. What does baptism mean to you?

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Who will be involved with the baptism? (friends, family, etc.)

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How do you plan to celebrate the day?

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# Home Reflection

As individuals reflect on the following question and then talk to your partner about your answers.

What is your commitment to God?

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How are you going to practice your faith?

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How do you plan to be a part of the Catholic Community?

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## Prayer

Lord, you have given me this child to watch over and care for.

Grant him/her your safety

and our protection against all temptation.

Grant him/her the wisdom to get through life.

Grant him/her the security

of knowing that he/she rests firmly in your hand.

Thank you for giving me this child.

All these things I pray in your name. Amen.

