

Sacrament of Baptism

Holy Baptism

Form to be used for infants

used by various sections of the
Liberal Catholic and Independent Catholic churches

Instructions (rubrics) are shown in this font.

Words that are spoken (or titles) are shown in this font.

† This cross means the people make the sign of the cross upon themselves.

✕ This cross means the priest makes the sign of the cross upon himself or others, or upon objects as a sign of power.

Baptism is a Sacrament by which the recipient is solemnly admitted to membership of Christ's holy Church and grafted into His mystical body. The Exorcism is intended to deaden the germs of evil and to effect a preliminary purification.

The First Anointing is for the strengthening and safeguarding of the candidate and is followed immediately by the Baptism in the Name of the Trinity, and then by the second Anointing with holy chrism, still further to strengthen him or her. The Pouring of Water symbolizes both the washing away of sin and the down-pouring of power from on high. The font is usually placed near the entrance of the church to show that by Baptism we gain admission to the Church of God. So far as is convenient, holy Baptism should be administered publicly in the presence of a congregation.

The priest normally leads this service, in the absence of a priest a deacon may officiate but omits the use of chrism. Where Baptism is necessary and a priest or deacon is not available, use the Service of Lay Baptism.

Instructions to Parents

The head of the child should be uncovered, and the dress so arranged that the oil of catechumens can be applied on the neck or breast before and at the nape of the neck behind.

It is customary that the white vesture shall be a white silk handkerchief, presented by the godparents. This is to be blessed by the Priest and is retained by the child in memory of his Baptism.

For each child to be baptized there should be a godfather and godmother (called sponsors), who say the words of presentation respectively, according to whether the child be male or female.

All Stand

THE INVOCATION

Priest: In the Name of the Father † and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: R/. Amen.

The people are seated

THE PRESENTATION

The child is presented as follows:

Sponsor: Reverend Father, we present to you this child, praying that you will receive him (her) into the fellowship of Christ's Church.

Priest: Brothers and sisters, our fair Father Christ, in His great loving-kindness, has ordained that His mystic Bride, our holy Mother the Church, shall guide and protect her children at every stage from the cradle to the grave. To this end is the Sacrament of holy Baptism ordained, that in His Name the Church may give welcome and blessing to him (her) who is newly come into this world of pilgrimage, and that the soul may dwell in a body purified from the taint of evil, sanctified and set apart for the service of Almighty God.

Addressing the sponsors and congregation:

Priest: Therefore, brothers and sisters of Christ's catholic church, I pray you to join with me in this our holy rite, whereby this child shall be made partaker of these heavenly gifts and a member of His mystical body. Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark, in the tenth chapter, at the thirteenth verse:

They brought young children to Christ that He should touch them; and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said to them: Let the little children to come to Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Amen, I say unto you, whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not

enter it. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

The Priest places his right hand on the head of the child, and says:

Priest: Let us pray...

God, Omnipotent and Omnipresent, whose power works in every living creature, who alone is the source of allure and goodness, deign to shed upon this your servant, who has been called to the rudiments of the faith, a ray of your light. Drive out from him (her) all blindness of heart, break all the chains of iniquity with which he (she) has been bound; open to him (her), O Lord, the gate of your glory, that being replenished with the spirit of your wisdom and strengthened by your mighty power, he (she) may be free from the taint of evil desire and steadfastly advancing in holiness may joyfully serve you in the course you have appointed for him (her); through Christ our Lord.

All: R/. Amen.

THE EXORCISM

Priest: In the Name which is above every name: in the power of the ✠ Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy ✠ Spirit, I exorcize all influences and seeds of evil; I lay upon them the spell of Christ's holy Church, that they may be bound fast as with iron chains and cast into outer darkness, that they trouble not this servant of God...

The priest again places his hand on the head of the child.

Priest: for He who is the Lord of Love and Compassion has deigned to call him to His holy grace and blessing and to the font of Baptism.

The Priest then proceeds as follows:

Priest: Ephphatha: that is, be opened.

Here the Priest makes the sign of the cross over the forehead, the throat, the heart and the navel of the child.

Priest: Let your mind and your heart be opened to the most holy Spirit of

the living God, that thy whole nature may be dedicated for ever to His service; so you may have power to receive the heavenly precepts and to be such in your conduct that you may be a pure temple of the living God.

He stretches out his right hand towards the child, and says:

Priest: O Lord, with your ever-abiding power, watch over this your chosen servant, who we dedicate to your service, that, using well the beginnings of your glory and observing your holy laws, he (she) may be found worthy to attain to the fullness of the new birth; through Christ our Lord.

All: R/. Amen.

The Priest places the end of his stole upon the child's shoulder, and says:

Priest: Come into the temple of God, that you may have part with Christ unto life eternal.

THE FIRST ANOINTING

The Priest takes upon his right thumb a little of the oil of catechumens. At the first two crosses the Priest touches respectively the child's throat and the nape of his neck, making a small cross at each with the oil; he then, without touching the body, makes two crosses respectively before and behind the child, reaching to the entire length of the body.

Priest: In the Name of Christ our Lord, I ✠ ✠ anoint you with oil for your safeguarding; may His holy Angel ✠ go before you, and ✠ follow after you; may he be with you in all your days and keep you in all your ways.

THE BAPTISM

While the godparents hold the child over the font, or if the candidate is old enough, bends over the font, the Priest pours some of the consecrated baptismal water over the head and forehead of the child three times. While doing so he pronounces the words:

Priest: N., I baptize you In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy ✠ Spirit. Amen.

(If the Baptism be sub conditione the following words are used:

Priest: N., if you are not already baptized, then I baptize you In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy ✠ Spirit. Amen.)

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The Priest takes upon his thumb some of the sacred chrism and, anointing the child on the top of the head in the form of a cross, says:

Priest: I ✠ anoint you with Christ's holy chrism, that His strength may protect you in your going out and your coming in, and may guide you into life everlasting.

Priest: Be closed.

Here the Priest makes the sign of the cross over the forehead, the throat, the heart and the navel of the child.

THE RECEPTION

With his thumb, still moist with chrism, the Priest makes a cross upon the child's forehead; and then he lays his hand upon the infant's head.

Priest: I receive this child into the fellowship of Christ's holy Church and do ✠ sign him (her) with the sign of the cross in token that hereafter he (she) shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ our Lord, to acknowledge Him when He shall come, and courageously to fight under His banner against sin and selfishness, and that he (she) shall continue as Christ's faithful soldier and servant throughout the ages of ages.

All: R/. Amen.

A white silk handkerchief, if brought, and the Priest, having blessed it, places it upon the shoulders of the child, saying:

Priest: Receive from God's holy Church this white vesture as a pattern of the spotless purity and brightness of Him whose service you have entered (to-day), and for a token of fellowship with Christ and His holy Angels, that your life may be filled with His peace.

Delivering a lighted candle to the child, (or to the child's sponsor if the child is very young) the Priest says:

Priest: Take (on behalf of N.) this burning light, enkindled from the fire of God's holy altar, for a sign of the ever-burning light of the Holy Spirit. God grant that hereafter His love shall so shine through your (his/her) heart that you (he/she) may continually enlighten the lives of your (his/her) fellow-men.

The Priest places his hand on the head of the child, and says:

Priest: N, go in peace and may the Lord be with you.

All: R/. Amen.

THE CHARGE TO SPONSORS

Priest: You who have brought this child here to be baptized, seeing that now he (she) is regenerate of water and the Holy Spirit and grafted into the mystical body of Christ's Church, remember that there lies upon you a duty not lightly to be cast aside. It is your part to see that as soon as he (she) is old enough to understand, he is taught God's holy will and commandment, as it was spoken by our Lord Himself when He said: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment; and the second is like unto it: Love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Sponsors: R/. Amen.

Priest: Also he (she) shall be taught the doctrine of the holy catholic Church, into which he (she) has this day been admitted, and shall be brought in due course before the Bishop to be confirmed by him.

All: R/. Amen.