

Baptism

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life. It is through Baptism that Christians are made, freed from sin and reborn as sons of God. In Baptism we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.

There are five main parts to the service of Baptism.

Reception of the Children

The children (and of course their families) are formally welcomed to the church. Parents tell the Church's minister what they ask of the church for their child, and when he is satisfied about the readiness of parents and godparents to share their faith with the child he greets the children who then have the sign of the Cross traced over them.

Liturgy of the Word

Those gathered listen to the Word of God to be helped to a deeper appreciation of the mystery of Baptism and a deeper desire to live faithfully and well.

Preparatory Rites

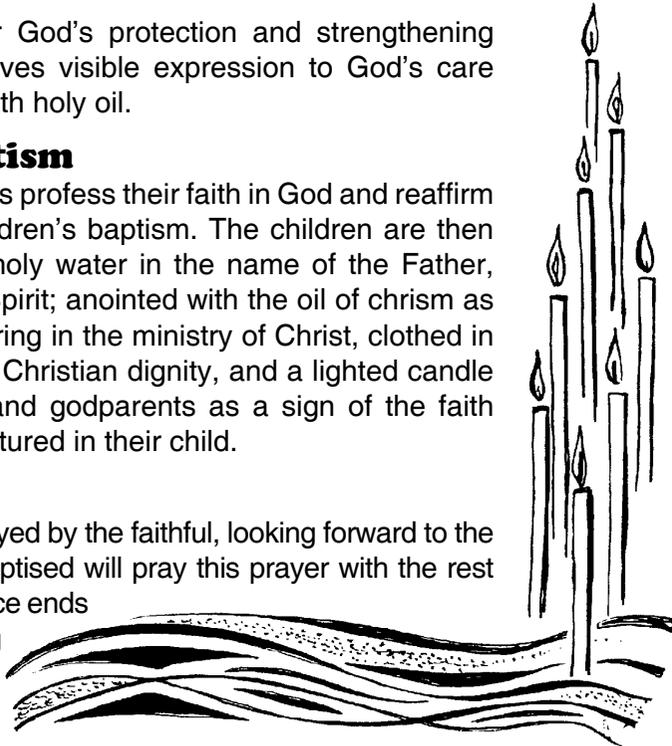
The minister prays for God's protection and strengthening of the children, and gives visible expression to God's care through an anointing with holy oil.

Celebration of Baptism

Parents and Godparents profess their faith in God and reaffirm their desire for the children's baptism. The children are then baptised - washed in holy water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; anointed with the oil of chrisam as a sign of their now sharing in the ministry of Christ, clothed in white as a sign of their Christian dignity, and a lighted candle presented to parents and godparents as a sign of the faith given and still to be nurtured in their child.

Concluding Rite

The Lord's Prayer is prayed by the faithful, looking forward to the time when the newly baptised will pray this prayer with the rest of the Church. The service ends with a prayer of blessing for all present.



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