

The Sacraments of Initiation and Baptism

St. Ambrose PREP
November 1, 2020 AD

Brent Potteiger
brentp7@hotmail.com

Zoom protocol:

- During the presentation:
 - Please keep yourself muted and (suggested) your video turned off
 - Please save questions for the end (feel free to send me a chat with your question if you think you might forget it)
- During discussion time:
 - You will be placed in “breakout rooms”
 - Feel free to turn on your video and unmute to share
- Recording
- Thank you!

Prayer of St. Gertrude:

**Eternal Father, * I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood * of
Thy divine Son Jesus, * in union with the Masses said
throughout the world today, * for all the holy souls in
purgatory, * for sinners everywhere, * for those in my own
home and within my family. Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

**May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace. Amen.**

The poor souls in purgatory:

- What we know about purgatory:
 - 1.) It exists
 - 2.) It's a place of great suffering
 - 3.) It's a place of great joy
 - 4.) It's a sign of the mercy of God
 - 5.) It's possible to bypass it
 - 6.) It's possible to help the souls there
 - 7.) It won't last forever



The poor souls in purgatory:

- Ways to help the souls in purgatory:
 - 1.) Pray for them- especially Mass, Divine Office/Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary
 - 2.) Do penance for them
 - 3.) Offer up good deeds on their behalf
 - 4.) Gain indulgences for them:
 - a.) What's an indulgence?
 - i.) "Remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven"



The poor souls in purgatory:

- Ways to help the souls in purgatory:
 - 4.) Gain indulgences for them:
 - a.) What's an indulgence?
 - ii.) Conditions for a plenary (full) indulgence:
 - In state of grace
 - Detached from all sin
 - Confession
 - Communion
 - Prayer for intentions of Pope



The poor souls in purgatory:

- Ways to help the souls in purgatory:
 - 4.) Gain indulgences for them:
 - b.) Some examples:
 - i.) Various prayers: Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross
 - ii.) Read the Bible



The poor souls in purgatory:

- Ways to help the souls in purgatory:

- 4.) Gain indulgences for them:

- b.) Some examples:

- iii.) Special indulgences:

- (1) 11/2: visit church and
pray “Our Father” &
Creed

- (2) 11/1-11/8: visit cemetery
& pray for dead
* extended through
entire month of
November!



A reminder about conscientious voting in the upcoming election:

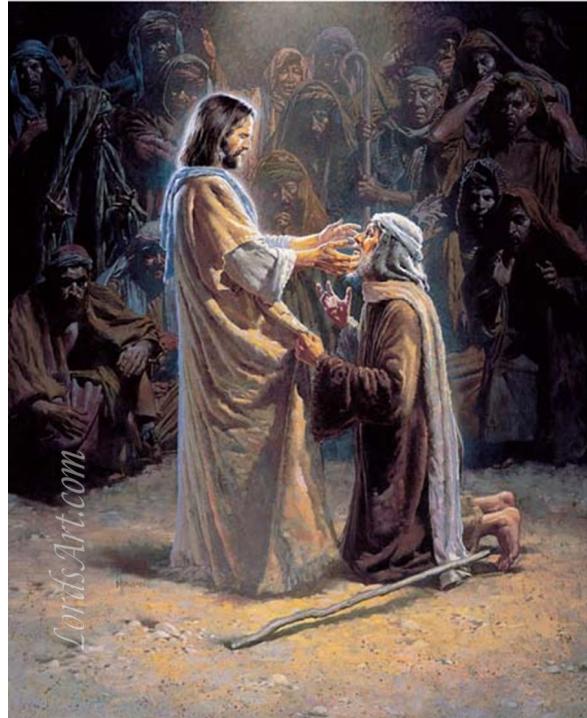
1. We have an obligation to *vote conscientiously*
2. We should base our choice on *policies, not personalities*: what does the candidate support politically -- NOT what are they like as people, NOT what personal choices do they make
3. We should consider the *common good* when voting: NOT “how will this candidate benefit me?” but “how will this candidate benefit society?”
4. We should remember that *God’s law* shows us what is for the common good and the *Church’s teaching* infallibly interprets God’s law
5. We should rate policies according to a *hierarchy* (cf. Pope Benedict):
 - 1.) “Protection of life” (abortion, euthanasia)
 - 2.) “Recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family” (defense of marriage = 1 man + 1 woman, gender identity issues)
 - 3.) “Protection of the right of parents to educate their children” (school choice)
 - 4.) Others: religious liberty, racism, right to property, etc.

A reminder about conscientious voting in the upcoming election:

- Resources to help form your conscience for the election:
 - 1.) [Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation 2020 Voter's Guide](#): shows where the candidates on the national and state (PA) level stand on right-to-life issues
 - 2.) [LifeSiteNews 2020 Voter Guide](#): shows where presidential candidates stand on the most important issues (includes guide for Catholics, Evangelicals and Hispanic-Americans)
 - 3.) Read [Bishop Paprocki's letter](#)
 - 4.) Read [Bishop Schlert's letter](#) (on AD-Today.com)

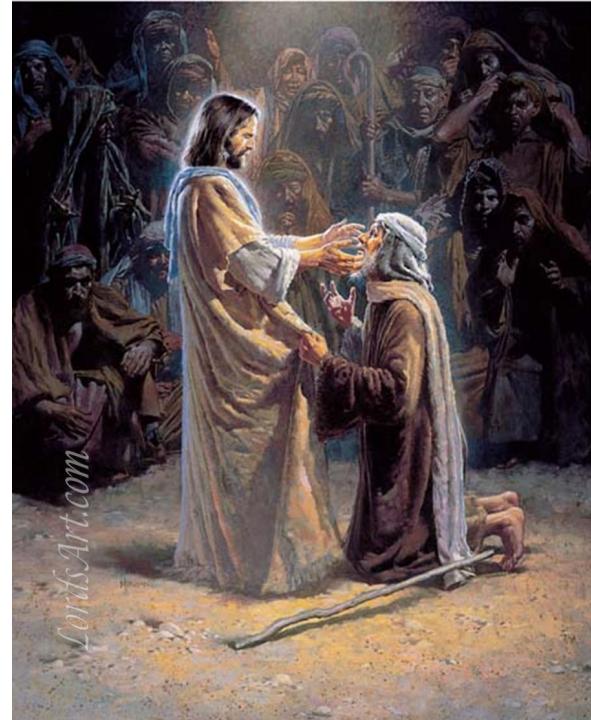
Background info on Sacraments:

- Remember: a Sacrament is first and foremost a *privileged encounter with Christ*



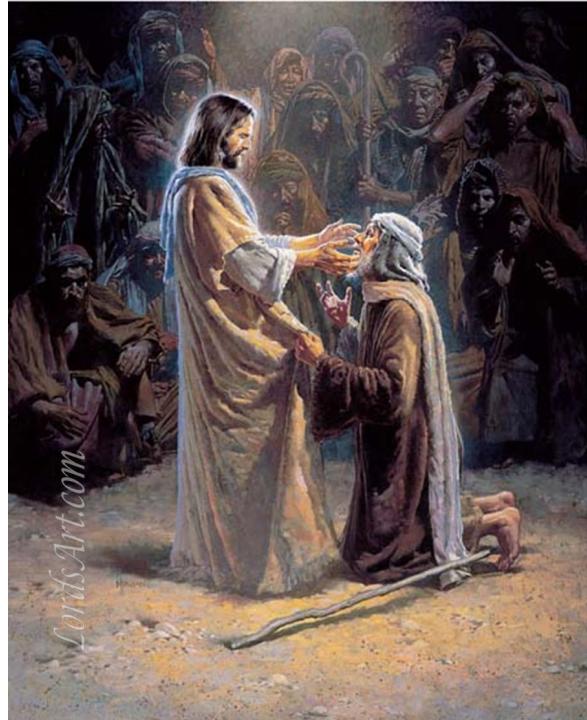
Background info on Sacraments:

- So, every Sacrament involves 3 essential parts, based on what St. Luke reveals about Jesus' mission: "Jesus began to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1)
 - 1.) **Minister**: the person authorized to act in the Person of Jesus Christ (with His authority and His intention) in imparting the Sacrament
 - 2.) **Matter**: the physical action performed by the minister (what he does)
 - 3.) **Form**: the words spoken by the minister (which teach what is happening in the Sacrament)



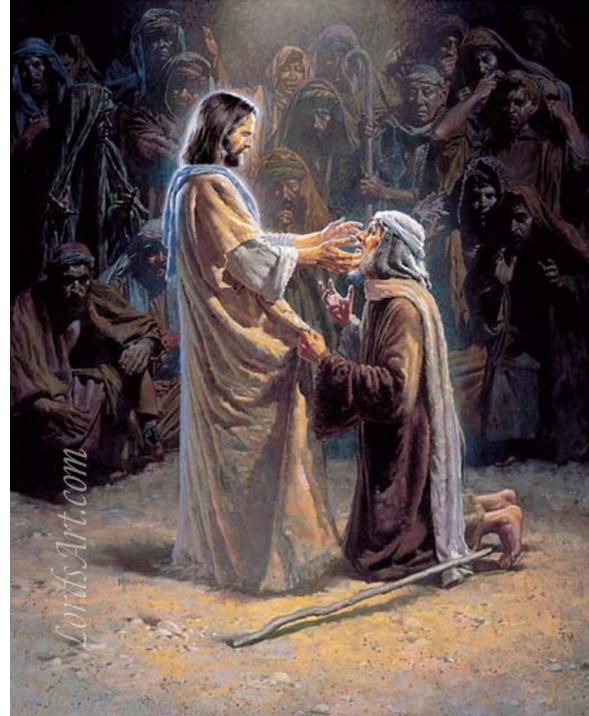
Background info on Sacraments:

- “I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)
 - The 7 Sacraments are means by which Jesus gives us abundant life-- the supernatural life of grace, which is a sharing in the life of God Himself
 - Each Sacrament provides for a specific need of our spiritual life: rebirth, maturity, nourishment, healing, death, family, authority



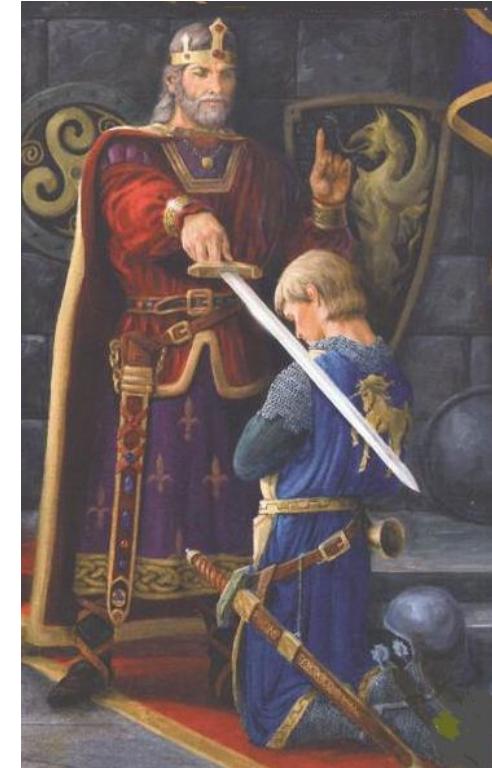
Background info on Sacraments:

- The Sacraments can be grouped in various ways. The most common:
 - 1.) Sacraments of ***Initiation***: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist
 - 2.) Sacraments of ***Healing***: Penance, Anointing of the Sick
 - 3.) Sacraments at the ***Service*** of Communion: Matrimony, Holy Orders



Sacraments of Initiation:

- “Initiation” seems to be the original context of the Latin word “*sacramentum*”
- Initiation involves several elements:
 - 1.) ***Preparation:*** a period of training
 - 2.) ***Renunciation:*** letting go of a former way of life
 - 3.) ***Dedication:*** pledging oneself to a new way of life
 - 4.) ***Ratification:*** a formal acceptance of the initiated person (usually involving an oath)
 - 5.) ***Incorporation:*** the initiated person takes on the rights & responsibilities of a new life



Sacraments of Initiation:

- The Sacraments of Initiation involve all of these elements
- The Sacraments of Initiation involve a 2-fold change of life:
 - An “*aversio a*” (“turning away from”): sin, excessive love of created things
 - A “*conversio ad*” (“turning to”): God, Christ



Old Testament Types of Baptism:

- What's a “***type***”:
 - 1.) **Creation** - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)
 - a.) God brings order, light and life out of chaos, darkness and emptiness
 - b.) God breathes life into man
 - c.) God enters into covenant relationship with mankind



Old Testament Types of Baptism:

- 2.) **The Flood** - “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith”
(Hebrew 11:7)
- a.) God ends a culture of sin and death
 - b.) God purifies the world
 - c.) God initiates a new culture of life and righteousness
 - d.) God enter into covenant relationship with Noah and family



Old Testament Types of Baptism:

- 3.) **Passing through the Red Sea & the Jordan River** - “I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (I Corinthians 10:1-2)
- a.) God delivers Israel from a land/culture of sin & slavery
 - b.) God leads Israel into a new land/culture of freedom & righteousness
 - c.) God enters into covenant relationship with Israel: the Law



The Baptism of Jesus:

“And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’ ” (Matthew 3:16-17)

- The Old Testament (in the person of St. John the Baptist) meets the New Testament (in the Person of Jesus Christ): “Thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
- The water did NOT empower or change Jesus - Jesus empowered the water



The Baptism of Jesus:

“And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’ ” (Matthew 3:16-17)

- The Baptism of Jesus shows what happens in the Sacrament of Baptism:
 - 1.) heaven (union with God) is opened to us
 - 2.) the Holy Spirit descends on us
 - 3.) we become God’s children - because God sees His Son in us
 - 4.) preparation for mission



Christian Baptism:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

- Baptism presumes a period of preparation
- Baptism incorporates into the Life of the Trinity
- Baptism entails the responsibility of living this new life



Christian Baptism:

- The 1st Century *Didache* shows us how the early Christians celebrated Baptism (ch. 7):

“But concerning baptism, baptize in this way: *having first recited all these precepts, baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in running water; but if you do not have running water, baptize in some other water, and if you can not baptize in cold, in warm water; but if you have neither, pour water three times on the head, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* But before the baptism, let him who baptizes and him who is baptized *fast previously*, and any others who may be able. And you shall command him who is baptized to fast one or two days before.”

The Celebration of Baptism:

- **Catechumenate** - a person considering baptism must go through a period of training usually culminating at Easter Vigil (for infants, this is understood as occurring on the part of the parents on behalf of the child - and for the child himself, after Baptism)
- **Minister** - ordinarily a priest or deacon - but in an emergency, ANYONE can baptize
- **Matter** - washing with water: either by immersion (dunking) or infusion (pouring)
- **Form** - “I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- **Post-baptismal catechumenate** - Baptism presumes a personal dedication to continue to grow in the Christian life

The Effects of Baptism:

- Baptism = ***death*** to sin, and the life of this world
- Baptism = ***resurrection*** unto God, with Christ, in the Spirit
- Baptism = ***transition to new life*** of Trinity, in the Church, unto heaven
- Baptism = ***sharing in the mission*** of Christ, through His Church



The Importance of Baptism:

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.” (CCC 1213)



The Importance of Baptism:

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1-3)

- St. Paul, like Jesus, teaches that Baptism effects a radical change in the person who is baptized:
 - 1.) Jesus had said, “You must be born anew.” (John 3:1-7)
 - 2.) St. Paul elsewhere says we must “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14), “die with Christ” and “live with Him” (Romans 6:8), “put off [our] old nature” and “be renewed in the spirit” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

The Importance of Baptism:

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)

- Baptism initiates us into the Life of Christ - without it, we cannot get to heaven
- God became Man, so that man might share the life of God - Baptism is the means Christ has chosen to make us sharers in His Life



The Importance of Baptism:

- “God has bound salvation to the Sacrament of Baptism, but He is not bound by His Sacraments.” (CCC 1257)
- Special cases:
 - Baptism of Blood
 - Baptism of Desire
 - Invincible ignorance
 - Children who die without Baptism



The Importance of Baptism:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (I Peter 2:9)

- Since we become sharers in the Life and Mission of Jesus Christ, Baptism entails certain rights and responsibilities
- Baptism makes us:
 - **Priests**- offering ourselves to God by uniting with the Sacrifice of Christ
 - **Prophets**- open to hearing the Word of God and empowered to proclaim It
 - **Kings**- governing our own actions, and our relations with God, others and the world

The Importance of Baptism:

“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

- We cannot undo our Baptism
- It “imprints” an indelible **character** on our soul- an eternal badge of honor or shame
- This character gives us the **ability** and the **responsibility** to become saints- living the Life and Mission of Christ- growing in union with God



The Importance of Baptism:

“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

- How do we live up to this new life?
 - Be open to true Love, which involves sacrifice
 - Being faithful to our daily duty
 - Practice the Christian life: Faith, Prayer, Sacraments, Virtue



The Importance of Baptism:

“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

- How do we live up to this new life?
 - Renew our baptismal vows
 - Celebrate our baptismal day
 - Continue training in the Christian life
 - Study & imitate lives of the saints
 - Use sacramentals: holy water, blessed candles
 - Recall that Baptism has made us “other Christs”



Renewal of Baptismal Vows:

**I renounce Satan, and all his pomps, and
all his works; and I promise to cling to
Christ with all faithfulness.**

Discussion questions:

- 1.) How are we initiated into the Christian life?
- 2.) What is involved in the celebration of Baptism?
- 3.) What are some of the effects of Baptism?
- 4.) What mission do we receive at Baptism?