

Baptism

The origin and foundation of Christian baptism is Jesus. We see baptism in the Gospels when we first hear of John the Baptist, and we hear that Jesus presented himself to John for Baptism, not because he needed to be freed from sin, but as a model for the faithful to receive this sacrament.

In the Gospel we also hear Jesus commission his disciples to “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” (MT 28:19-20).



Thus, baptism is a sacred liturgical ritual—

in this celebration we are made holy, we are freed from sin, we become sons and daughters of God, and we are incorporated into the Body of Christ. We also believe that “Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship” (CCC 1280).

Baptism is our yes to the mission and ministry of Christ, the beginning of a lifetime journey of commitment and discipleship. Baptism should be lived every day. We are reborn in Christ and must go out into the world and live His Word as Children of God

A baby is baptized into the faith of the community, which means it is up to us to pass on our faith to that child. Parents and godparents solemnly promise to raise the child in the faith and to practice the faith. “Children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God to which all people are called” (CCC 1250).



Obviously babies don't quite understand the idea of a new life in Christ, or putting off of the old, putting on the new, or dying and rising, but parents of those babies can understand and live those values and pass them on to their children.

We celebrate the baptism with several key elements:

- water, of course
- oil for anointing, which symbolizes the gift of the Holy Spirit,
- a candle signifying that the newly baptized has been enlightened by Christ and will now be a light for the world (we entrust the parents and godparents to keep this light burning)
- a white garment which represents being newly washed of sin and putting on Christ

