

Baptism Outside of Mass

Parent, godparent, and congregation responses are shown in bold type.

Opening

The parents and godparents will be seated in their reserved pews before Baptism begins.

The procession is as follows: When the opening hymn (optional) begins, the Deacon and Lector will proceed to the front of the Sanctuary. The Deacon remains on the first platform of the Sanctuary to be near the parents/godparents in the reserved pews while the Lector goes to the lectern.

The Lector makes an announcement (slowly), introducing the parents by name, presenting their children for baptism. As their names are announced, parents and children (child) will leave their pew and come to the first platform of the Sanctuary facing the congregation.

The Deacon will then address the parents (before proceeding, instruct the parents to respond, "Yes.>").

Deacon:

"My dear parents, you have come here today to request baptism for your children/child. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training them (him/her) in the practice of the Faith. It will be your duty to bring them (him/her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.

Do you understand what you are undertaking?"

Parents (together):

"Yes, we do."

The Deacon then addresses the godparents, who are still in their pews.

Deacon:

"And you, godparents, are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mother(s) and father(s)?"

Godparents (together):

"Yes, we are."

The Deacon then prays: (facing children)

"Then my dear children (child), the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior by the Sign of the Cross + which I now make over you. And I invite your parents to trace that sign on your forehead(s)."

After this, the parents return to their reserved pews. The Deacon now goes to the Presider's chair.

Reading: (Lector)

Lector announces that the response at the end of the reading is: *"Thanks be to God. (Alleluia, Alleluia)"*

Lector:

"A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. (Alleluia, Alleluia)"

All:

"Thanks be to God. (Alleluia, Alleluia)"

Gospel: (Deacon)

Homily: (Deacon)

Prayers of the Faithful:

The Deacon addresses the entire congregation and introduces the Prayers of the Faithful and the response, "Lord, hear our prayer."
(Lector reads these petitions.)

Deacon:

"My brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly upon these children (this child) who are (is) to be baptized and on their (his/her) parents, godparents, and all the baptized."

Petitions

Lector:

"By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe these children (this child) in light. Give them (him/her) the new life of baptism and welcome them (him/her) into your holy church. We pray to the Lord."

All:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

Lector:

"Through baptism and confirmation, make them (him/her) your faithful follower(s) and witness(es) to your gospel. We pray to the Lord."

All:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

Lector:

"Lead them (him/her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord."

All:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

Lector:

"Make the lives of their (his/her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire these children (this child). We pray to the Lord."

All:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

Lector:

"Renew the grace of baptism in each one of us. We pray to the Lord."

All:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

Deacon:

“Almighty and ever-loving God, you sent your only son into the world to cast out the power of satan, the spirit of evil and rescue us from the kingdom of darkness and bring us to the kingdom of light. We pray for these children (this child). Set them (him/her) free from original sin, make them (him/her) temples of your glory and send the holy spirit to dwell within them (him/her). We ask this through Christ our Lord.”

All:

“Amen.”

Deacon:

“My dear children/ child, may you have strength in the power of Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns forever and ever.”

(goes to the font and addresses the congregation).

“Please respond, ‘Blessed be God.’

Father, God of mercy, through these waters of baptism you have filled us with new life as your very own children, let us proclaim:”

All:

“Blessed be God.”

Deacon:

“From all who are baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, you have formed one people, united in your Son, Jesus Christ, let us proclaim:”

All:

“Blessed be God.”

Deacon:

“You have set us free and filled our hearts with the Spirit of your love, that we may live in your peace, let us proclaim:”

All:

“Blessed be God.”

Deacon:

“You call those who have been baptized to announce the good news of Jesus Christ to people everywhere, let us proclaim:”

All:

“Blessed be God.”

Deacon:

“Almighty God, you have called your children/child, to this cleansing water that they (he/she) may share in the faith of your church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead them (him/her) to a new and spiritual birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.”

All:

“Amen.”

The Profession of Faith

Deacon:

“Dear parents and godparents, you have come here to present these children (this child) for baptism, for new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them (him/her) up in the practice of the faith. If your faith and love for these children (this child) make(s) you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism, reject sin, profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith for which these children (this child) are (is) to be baptized.

*May I ask the parents, godparents, and everyone present to respond,
‘We do.’*

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God’s children?”

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

“Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?”

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

Do you reject satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

“Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth?”

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

“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?”

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

“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?”

All:

“We do.”

Deacon:

“This our faith, this is the faith of the church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

All:

“Amen.”

The Baptism:

Deacon:

“Since it is your wish that these children (this child) should be so baptized, I ask you now to approach the Font.

(One child at a time, with parents and godparents is directed to the Font.)

N... I baptize you in the name of the Father + and the Son + and the Holy Spirit +.”

(After each baptism, the parents and godparents return to the Sanctuary step, facing the congregation.)

The Anointing with Chrism:

Deacon anoints each child on the forehead saying:

“God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into His holy people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of Salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of His body, sharing everlasting life.”

All:

“Amen.”

Distributing the White Garment:

Placing a white garment on each of the children, the Deacon says:

“You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. Little one(s), with your family and friends to help and guide you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.”

All:

“Amen.”

Lighting of the Candle:

A candle lit from the Paschal Candle is now given to a godparent of each child.

Deacon:

“Parents and godparents, this candle is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children (this child) have (has) been enlightened by Christ. May they (he/she) keep the flame of faith alive in their (his/her) heart(s).”

The Passing of Faith Tradition: (A Saint Mary’s Tradition)

The children (child) is now welcomed into this community of St. Mary by a parishioner as the Deacon explains this tradition to the congregation.

The Blessings:

Deacon:

“May God, our Father, who filled the world with joy by giving us his only Son, bless these newly baptized children (this child). May they (he/she) grow to be more fully like Jesus, our Lord.”

All:

“Amen.”

Deacon:

“May Almighty God bless + the parents of these children (this child). They will be the first teachers of their children (this child) in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

All:

“Amen.”

Deacon:

“Let us now welcome our new brother(s) and sister(s) in the Lord.”

(Applause!!)