

The Rite of Baptism

Greeting

"What name do you give your child?"
"What do you ask of God's church for your child?"

Liturgy of the Word

Intercessions

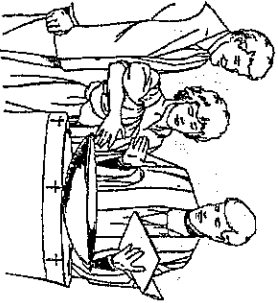
Celebration of the Sacrament

Blessing of the Water
Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith
Baptism
Clothing with White Garment
Presentation of Lighted Candle
Prayers over Ears and Mouth (optional)

Concluding Rite

The Lord's Prayer
Blessing and Dismissal

When the Baptism is celebrated at Mass, the Parents, the Godparents and Child are part of the Opening Procession. The Greeting takes place in the center cross aisle. The Celebration of the Sacrament takes place after the homily.



The Symbols of Baptism



WATER is the primary symbol of baptism. Water signifies life, and water is also able to produce death, in the case of drowning, for example. The whole paschal mystery of Christ, that dying and rising of Christ, that walk of the cross of Christ to new life is symbolized and embodied in water. As a child is brought to the church in baptism the child is immersed in water to rise to new life in the Catholic Christian community. "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)



LIGHT At Easter, the Paschal Candle, or "Christ candle" is lit as a sign of the risen life of Christ. At baptism a small candle is lit from the Paschal candle. The child now is a child of the "light" and must walk in Christ's light all the days of his/her life. A small candle is given to the parents at baptism to be "kept burning brightly" in the heart of this child of God. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)



OIL is a symbol of God's divine power. It gives healing and balm to those who are infirmed and its perfume is a lingering sign of God's call. Each child is anointed with the sacred oil of Chrism, blessed by the bishop and signed on the crown of the child's head. Each newly baptized son or daughter receives the instruction to continue the priestly, prophetic and kingly ministry of Christ. The oil of catechumens is optional and is placed on the breast of the child symbolizing the strength of Christ given to us for our Christian journey.



WHITE GARMENT symbolizes being clothed in Christ. The splendor of this robe which covers your child is a sign of an inner reality: The bright and festive and all-covering love of God. "All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Him." (Galatians 3:27)

Some Helpful Information . . .

We rejoice with you and your family in welcoming your child into the body of Christ, into the family of believers. If there is anything we can do to help you prepare for the sacrament of baptism, please let us know. Meanwhile, here is some helpful information that may help you better prepare.

TIME FOR BAPTISMS

Baptisms are usually held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:30 P. We ask that you be prompt in arriving as there are often more than one family having a child baptized. Baptisms may also be scheduled at any weekend liturgy. These arrangements must be made through the parish secretary. We generally only baptize one infant at any given Mass.

GODPARENTS

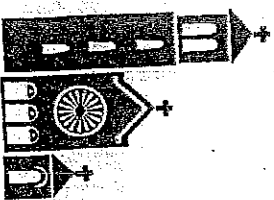
Those you choose to be godparents should be fully initiated Catholics (baptized, first communion, confirmation) who actively practice their Faith. They should be in a valid marriage and should be registered at a parish. It is permissible to have one Catholic godparent and another person to serve as a Christian witness. It is presumed that this individual also actively practices his/her Christian faith.

WHAT TO WEAR

The child will receive a small baptismal garment but we ask that you bring the child clothed in a white baptismal outfit.

CONTACT

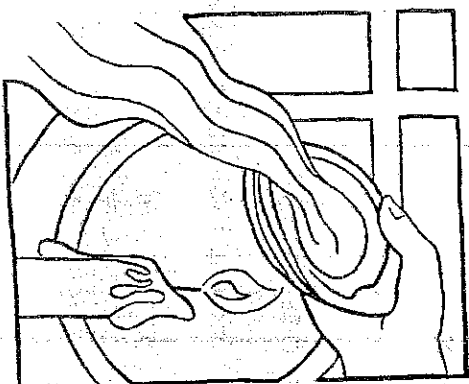
If you have to change the date or time of the baptism, or have any questions, please call us as soon as possible in advance of the baptism date.



Welcome to the
St. Christopher
Parish Family!

The Sacrament of Baptism

A Guide for Families



Just as friends and family of a new baby bestow gifts to meet its many needs, the church is also abundant in showering gifts on its newest members. Through baptism, God gives the risen life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, victory over evil, strength, joy and community. The signs of baptism, particularly the water, the Paschal candle, sacred oil and the white garment, reveal to us the meaning of this rite.

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