

THE RITE OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

The people may sing a psalm or a hymn while the celebrating priest goes to the entrance of the church or to that part of the church where the parents and godparents are waiting with the child.

The celebrant greets all present. Then he questions the parents:

Celebrant: What name do you give your child?

Parents: N.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents: Baptism.

The celebrant addresses the parents in these or similar words:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents:

Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: We are.

Celebrant: N., the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents (and godparents) to do the same.

He signs the child on the forehead, in silence. Then he invites the parents (and the godparents) to do the same.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

One or even two gospel passages are read, during which all may sit.

After the reading the celebrant gives a short homily.

Intercessions (The Bidding Prayers)

Celebrant: My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child who is to be baptized, on his (her) parents and godparents, and on all the baptized.

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this child in light; give him (her) the new life of baptism and welcome him (her) into your holy Church. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Keep his (her) family always in your love. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

The celebrant next invites all present to invoke the saints.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, pray for us.

The names of other saints may be added.

The litany concludes:

All holy men and women, pray for us.

PRAYER OF EXORCISM AND ANOINTING BEFORE BAPTISM

After the invocation, the celebrant says:

Almighty and ever-living God, I you sent your only Son into the world I to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, I to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, I and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light. I We pray for this child: I set him (her) free from original sin, I make him (her) a temple of your glory, I and send your Holy Spirit to dwell in him (her). I (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The celebrant continues:

We anoint you with the oil of salvation I in the name of Christ our Saviour; I may he strengthen you I with his power, I who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

He anoints the child on the breast with the oil of catechumens.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

All proceed to the Baptistry. A hymn or psalm may be sung.

Celebrant: My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water

(Other forms of this blessing may be used)

Celebrant: Praise to you, almighty God and Father, for you have created water to cleanse and to give life.

All: Blessed be God.

Celebrant: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, for you offered yourself on the cross, that in the blood and water flowing from your side, and through your death and resurrection, the Church might be born.

All: Blessed be God.

Celebrant: Praise to you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Christ at his baptism in the waters of Jordan, so that we might all be baptized into you.

All: Blessed be God.

Celebrant: Come to us, Lord, Father of all, and make holy this water which you have created, so that all who are baptized in it may be washed clean of sin and be born again to live as your children.

All: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: Make this water holy, Lord, so that all who are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection by this water may become more perfectly like your Son.

All: Hear us, Lord.

The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:

Lord, make holy this water which you have created, so that all those whom you have chosen may be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may take their place among your holy people.

All: Hear us, Lord.

If the baptismal water has already been blessed, the celebrant omits the invocation *Come to us, Lord and those which follow it*, and says:

You have called your child, N., to this cleansing water that he (she) may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead him (her) to a new and spiritual birth. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Celebrant: Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.

If your faith makes 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 in which this child is about to be baptized.