

Baptism

Lesson 18 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the many effects of Baptism.
- The participants will study the Rite of Baptism and the significance of the Sacrament's symbols.

Content Summary

1. Our experience with Baptism opens up the spiritual world to us. Through water those who are baptized are born again as God's children and as members of the Body of Christ, the Church.
2. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist together are called the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. These three Sacraments are the foundation of the Christian life; every Catholic should receive all three.
3. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are closely related, but each has its own special symbols and effects. Baptism's primary effect is the beginning of new life in Christ. Confirmation's primary effect is to strengthen us to live more fully Christ's call to serve. And the primary effect of the Eucharist is to nourish us to live as Christ's disciples in our journey through this life.
4. As the foundational Sacrament for all Christian life, the Sacrament of Baptism bestows upon us a grace that has a number of important effects.
5. A baptized person is a member of the Body of Christ, the Church.
6. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, all our sins are forgiven and we are given the grace to fight future temptation. This includes Original Sin as well as our personal sins.
7. Through Baptism we leave a way of life that is headed for death and separation from God, and we enter a way of life that is destined for eternal life and union with God.
8. It is in Baptism that we first receive the Holy Spirit into our life.
9. In a sense Baptism is the antidote for Original Sin. Where Original Sin separated us from God, Baptism unites us with God. Where Original Sin separated human beings from one another, Baptism makes us one family again in the Church.
10. The essential symbol for Baptism is the blessed water that is poured over a person or that a person is immersed in, while the minister pronounces, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." These actions and words alone make for a valid Baptism.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition*. Copyright © 2013 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

