

The Sacrament of Baptism

Chapter 33 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore the meaning of Baptism.
- The participants will examine various elements essential to the Rite of Baptism.
- The participants will recognize that being baptized makes us members of the Church.

Content Summary

1. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are born into new lives in Christ.
2. Through Baptism we become part of the Body of Christ, the Church, and we share in Christ's priesthood.
3. Baptism washes away Original Sin and leaves a permanent spiritual mark on our soul. It changes us into adopted children of God.
4. The essential Rite of Baptism is immersing a person in water or pouring water over his or her head while saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (*Rite of Baptism for Children*, 60)
5. Baptism is the first Sacrament of Christian Initiation. It is the beginning of a Christian's life. The other two Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Confirmation and the Eucharist.
6. Adults who wish to be baptized according to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) must first enter into the catechumenate, a time of learning about the Christian life.
7. The symbols (words and actions) incorporated into the Sacrament of Baptism for a child are the following: the greeting at the door of the church, the giving of the name, the promise of the parents and godparents to bring up this child in the Catholic faith and the promise of the assembly to help them, the marking of the child with the Sign of the Cross, the baptismal promises, the Baptism with water in the name of the Trinity, the anointing with Chrism, the clothing in a white garment, and the presentation of a lighted candle.

(The quotation on this handout is from the English translation of the *Rite of Baptism of Children* © 1969, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation [ICEL], number 60, as found in *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, volume one, prepared by the ICEL, a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990]. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN. Used with permission of the ICEL. Published with the approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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