

Telling a Story of Baptism

Choose the option below that applies to you, and follow the interview instructions. Then write a two- to three-page paper telling a story of Baptism. Your paper should address the following topics:

- the decision to be baptized (or to have one's child baptized)
- the preparation for Baptism
- family and loved ones involved in the Baptism
- details of the Sacrament

This assignment includes options if you were baptized in another Christian denomination or if you have never been baptized.

Option 1: If You Were Baptized as an Infant

Interview your parents and godparents to learn why you were baptized and what they found most meaningful in the Sacrament. Use the following questions as a framework for interviewing, but ask suitable follow-up questions as appropriate. Take good notes of your conversations.

Questions for Parents and Family Members

1. Why was I baptized?
2. What kind of baptismal preparation did you go through?
3. Who are my godparents, and why did you choose them?
4. Who was the priest? Who else was present?
5. Was I baptized by immersion or by the pouring of water?
6. What did I wear? Do you still have my outfit? Do you still have the other baptismal symbols (candle, white garment)?
7. What did I do during the Baptism? Did I cry, sleep, or just look around?

Questions for Godparents

Ask your godparents some of the same questions you asked your parents. In addition, ask these specific questions about being your godparent.

1. What did it mean to you when my parents asked you to be my godparents?
2. What do you think are the responsibilities of godparents?
3. What was your role during the Sacrament of Baptism?



Option 2: If You Were Baptized as an Older Child or Teenager

If you were baptized when you were older, you likely remember some details about the day and perhaps made your own decision to be baptized. In writing your paper, supplement what you remember by interviewing your parents and godparents to learn more about your Baptism, especially their experiences of your Baptism and baptismal preparation. Use the questions from option 1 as an interview framework, asking follow-up questions as appropriate.

Option 3: If You Were Baptized in Another Christian Denomination

In your essay describe your religion's baptismal preparation and ritual in detail, and compare these to what you have learned about Baptism in the Catholic Church. Interview your parents, godparents or sponsors (if any), and others using applicable questions from option 1. If you were an older child when you were baptized, be sure to include your own memories and feelings from your Baptism, including your decision to be baptized.

Option 4: If You Have Not Been Baptized

Find someone who was baptized in the Catholic Church as an older child or adult. Interview that person about the details of his or her Baptism. Use the following questions as a framework for interviewing the person, asking follow-up questions as appropriate.

1. Why did you decide to be baptized in the Catholic Church?
2. Who was involved in your decision to be baptized? How did they help you make this decision?
3. What kind of preparation did you undergo for Baptism?
4. Whom did you choose as a baptismal sponsor? Why?
5. Describe some of the details from your Baptism. What ritual elements do you most remember? What was most meaningful?

