

Catholic Notes



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Baptism is...

- ...a tangible expression of God's claiming us as a member of His holy and beloved people - a people saved in Christ Jesus
- ...a commitment to worship God as members of the family of the Church and to live as a disciple of Christ
- ...a sacrament of initiation whose words and gestures tell us about the faith community we are being joined to - welcoming, committed, faithful

The Rite of Baptism includes:

- ✝ words of welcome
- ✝ a statement of commitment to live a Christian life, with the help of God's grace and the assistance of the Church community
- ✝ symbolic actions
 - the cross of Jesus traced on the forehead
 - immersion in or pouring of water
 - clothing in the white garments of those called to life in the kingdom of God
 - anointing with blessed and scented oil symbolizing the call to share the ministry of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and King
 - presentation of a candle lit from the Paschal candle to remind us of how we are all called to live in the light of Christ, and to be that light to others and to the world

Through baptism all are called to the priesthood that is common to all the faithful.

Patrick Johnson, CSP - pastor, St. Austin Catholic Parish

Of the various symbols that are part of this sacrament, which carry the greatest meaning for you? Why?

As a baptized Christian, what is the "new life" you operate out of?

As a baptized Christian you have a "light" to show and share. In your case, what does that "light" look like?

Baptism for an adult is the end of a journey to faith in Christ; it is the final "yes," a faith-filled response, a decision to become a full member of the followers of Christ.

Preparation involves study, working a serious program of turning one's life over to Christ and a commitment to remain faithful for life.



Baptism for a child is entering into a life, even as an infant, of being brought up in the church, a community of people committed to being for Christ. This means family, parish, circle of friends, and even the strangers in church become the seedbed for faith so that, from the earliest years of life a child is "in Christ."

Bill Huebsch, "Rethinking Sacraments Holy Moments in Daily Life"

Living The Life Of Baptism

Washed Clean † New Life † Anointed † Mission
 Belonging to Christ † Light to the World † Community
In Your Every Day Lives

Opening Reflection:

In Baptism we are drawn into the community of faith. We become part of the pilgrim people of God which, in all times and all places, goes forward in hope towards the fulfillment of the promise.

It is our task to take our place responsibly and lovingly beside those who, from the beginning, remained faithful to the teachings of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.

John Paul II - Homily on Baptism at Westminster Cathedral (London)

Scripture Sharing:

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 113-14 (reading for 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
 How do we "guard this rich trust" and what do we do with it?

Reflection questions:

Exploring Baptism	Bringing Baptism to Life
Through baptism we are God's gifts of light to the world. We are called to gift the world in which we live with the faithful light of Christ and to light up even the darkest corners of our world so that no person need walk in fear.	We don't need to look further than our own everyday encounters to discover a "dark corner" in need of light. Where are such corners in your family, neighborhood, work place? What "light" do you have right now that you can bring there?
Baptism marks us as people of the resurrection, people who hope and trust in life beyond pain and death, as people who celebrate the Lord's year of favor.	In this time of anxiety and concern, how can we express the hope that our baptism poured into us? What is there to the life we live now that is beyond the touch of pain and death?
Through baptism we are called to be stewards of God's grace, called to actively participate in God's work of loving, reconciling, healing, celebrating, and nurturing.	The role of steward is different from the role of owner/operator. How does this baptismal understanding of steward effect the way you approach the loving, reconciling, healing, celebrating and nurturing you already do? How would you do this work differently?

Closing Prayer

God of all creation
 You are our rock
 You are the way the truth and our light
 Your love carries us
 through life's dark moments
 You anoint our lives
 with the oil of gladness
 and open us to the joys of life
 Thank you for counting us worthy to
 receive the gift of your son Jesus
 who lives and reigns with you
 and the Holy Spirit
 One God, now and forever.
 Amen.

Did you remember?

Sometimes it seems so hard to live out our baptismal commitments. And not only are we called to live out our own baptismal commitments we are called to help others live out theirs as well. What a relief it is to hear Jesus say, "I am with you always." We need not do this on our own! We have the guarantee of at least one companion with us: Jesus.

Want to Live out your baptismal identity?

Social Justice Ministry

Phyllis Nugent 477-9471 ext. 324

For the month of October St. Austin Catholic Parish will collect baby items for use by the Gabriel Ministry, a direct service outreach to women in crisis pregnancies.