



CREDO

Know your Faith + Love your Faith + Share your Faith

Preparing for an Eternal Victory

Baptismal Garments

Our primary allegiance is to our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow Him within the fellowship of His Church. Catholic Christians have “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” in baptism (cf. Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27). This is indescribably wonderful!

These words were said as the baptismal garment was given to us: “You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven” (*Rite of Baptism*). **Baptism immerses us into the very life and love of God. The fact that we have been baptized is not just a reference to a past event. Baptism is an ongoing reality in our lives.**

Our Lord was baptized by Saint John the Baptist as another sign that God had come to liberate us from sin and death. We can be free to live as beloved children of God.

Holy Baptism

Saint John the Baptist baptized with water as a cleansing ritual in preparation for the coming of Jesus. **In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.** God heals us from original sin and helps us to overcome the inclination to sin.

Our growing in holiness is relative to the degree that we accept what God wants to accomplish within us. **We are beloved children of God in whom God is well pleased.** This is our motivation to become holy in our thoughts, speech, and actions.

Universal Call to Holiness

Vatican II reinforced the teaching that **every member of the Church is called to be holy because we have been baptized** (cf. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen gentium*, Chapter V, 1964). Saint Peter wrote, “. . . be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, ‘Be holy because I (am) holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16). We want to be true to our identity and live according to it without shame or sanctimony. It does not mean that we are perfect, but we are being perfected as we cooperate with the life and love of God dwelling within us.

Enjoying an Eternal Victory

Instituted by Christ and entrusted to His Church, the sacraments are tangible encounters with Christ. **The sacraments accomplish what they signify because Christ is personally ministering to us through the Church.** Receiving the sacraments will be fruitful experiences for us if we cooperate with how Christ desires to act within us.



Saint Paul wrote about the ongoing reality of baptism in our lives: “Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? . . . If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:1-3, 8-11). **This is the path for victory for the Catholic Christian: to live according to our great identity in God so that we can receive our glorious inheritance from God.**

Parents make a solemn promise before their children are baptized



Before their children are baptized, parents make a promise to God and to the Church to raise their children in the *practice* of the Catholic Christian Faith. Enrolling children in a religious education program or Catholic School is an important part of fulfilling this promise. However, these institutions are *partners* with the parents as they fulfill their promise. *Parents do not abdicate their responsibilities to these institutions.* It is important for parents to continue to learn about the principles of the Faith and practical ways of faithfully living according to them.

Requirements for Godparents

Godparents support parents in fulfilling this solemn promise. At least one godparent is appointed; if two godparents, then they must be a man and a woman. Godparents must be *practicing* Roman Catholics who are at least 16 years old and have been baptized, confirmed, and received their First Eucharist. They should be regularly worshipping during Sunday Mass and be a good example. You may choose another baptized Christian as a “Christian witness,” but there must be one Roman Catholic godparent.

When is your baptismal anniversary?

We like to celebrate birthdays. Do you celebrate the day in which you were born again of water and Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism (cf. John 3:5)?

If you do not have your baptismal certificate, then ask for one from the parish in which you were baptized. It is noted in the baptismal register and placed in a safe to prevent it from being damaged. If you were baptized as an infant, then your birth date will give them an idea where to look.

Selected Scripture Passages to Ponder

Matthew 28:18-20	John 3:1-6
Romans 6:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-13
Ephesians 4:1-6	Galatians 3:26-28

Catechism of the Catholic Church

See paragraphs #1213-1284

Holy Water

Holy water fonts are located near the entrances of Catholic churches. It is our custom to bless ourselves with holy water as we enter and exit the church building.

Blessing ourselves as we enter reminds us that baptism has incorporated us into the Church. It is Christ who gathers us to worship God, to enjoy fellowship with the People of God, and to be nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Blessing ourselves as we exit reminds us that we “go in peace, glorifying the Lord with our lives” (*The Roman Missal*). We are thankful to God for the privilege to live as His people in the world.

Many Catholics also use holy water at home. Our church has a holy water font in the narthex in which you can fill your bottles for that purpose.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises (usually done on Easter Sunday)

Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? ***I do.***

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? ***I do.***

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? ***I do.***

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? ***I do.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? ***I do.***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? ***I do.***