

# Rite of Baptism for Children

## Reception of the Child

*(The Proclaimer will read the introduction to the Liturgy, concluding with a welcome to the family of the person who is being baptized and an invitation to greet one another.)*

**Priest:** We begin today our celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *(To Parents)* What name have you given your child?

**Parents: (name)**

**Priest:** What do you ask of God's Church for N?

**Parents: Baptism**

**Priest (to parents):** N and N, you have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training N in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring N up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

**Parents:** We do.

**Priest (to Godparents):** Godparents, N and N, are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

**Godparents:** We are.

**Priest:** People of God, do you agree to support these parents and Godparents in the baptismal covenant for this child/children?

**All:** We do

**Priest:** N, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name, I claim you for Christ our Savior by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and Godparents to do the same. *(Signs child in silence)*

## Prayer and Anointing with Oil of Catechumens (#221)

**Priest:** Almighty God, you sent your only son to rescue us from the slavery of sin, and to give us the freedom only your sons and daughters enjoy.

We now pray for this child (these children) who will have to face the world with its temptations, and fight the devil in all his cunning.

Your Son died and rose again to save us. By his victory over sin and death, bring this child (these children) out of the power of darkness. Strengthen him/her (them) with the grace of Christ, and watch over him/her (them) at every step in life's journey. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Cantor: Announce Gathering Song.** *(During the gathering song, process to the altar in the following order: proclaimer, servers, family, Priest.)*

*(Penitential Rite & Gloria are omitted.) Priest, beginning with opening prayer continues the Liturgy of the Word as usual.*

*Homily. . .*

## **Celebration of the Sacrament**

**Priest:** Dear friends in Christ, as our brothers and sisters approach the waters of rebirth, let us help them by our prayers and ask God, our almighty Father, to support them with his mercy and love. (From the Sacramentary p. 193)

*Cantor sings two verses of the Litany of Saints as priest and family process to the font. Use saints names that are appropriate (e.g. the child's first or middle name, the parents' names, etc.)*

**Priest:** My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

## **Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water (from p. 122 Rite of Baptism for Children)**

**Priest:** Father, God of Mercy, through these waters of baptism you have filled us with new life as your very own children. From all who are baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, you have formed one people, united in your son, Jesus Christ. You have set us free and filled our hearts with the Spirit of your love that we may live in your peace. You call those who have been baptized to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.

You have called your child, N, to this cleansing water that he/she may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water, lead him/her to a new and spiritual birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

## **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

**Priest:** Dear parents and Godparents: You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit, he/she is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life, which God gives him/her, is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his/her heart.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized.

**Priest (to the parents & Godparents):** Do you reject Satan?

**Parents & Godparents:** I do.

**Priest:** And all his works?

**Parents & Godparents:** I do.

**Priest:** And all his empty promises?

**Parents and Godparents:** I do.

*The celebrant asks the threefold profession of faith from the parents, Godparents, and the assembly.*

**Priest:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** 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?

**All:** I do.

**Priest:** This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen

## **Baptism**

**Priest:** *(to parents and Godparents)* Is it your will that N. should be baptized in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

**Parents and Godparents:** It is.

**Priest** *(baptizes the child):* I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Cantor (leads the acclamation): “You are God’s Work of Art”

## **Anointing with Chrism**

**Priest:** God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of Salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

*The priest anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism, in silence.*

## **Clothing with the White Garment**

**Priest:** N, 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.

**All:** Amen.

*The white garment is put on the child.*

## **Lighted Candle**

*The priest gives the Baptismal Candle to the server to light from the Easter candle. The priest hands the lighted candle to the father or Godfather.*

**Priest:** Receive the light of Christ. Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

## **Ephphetha**

**Priest:** The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth, to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

**All:** Amen.

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

**Priest (from the font):** Let us continue our celebration with the intercessory prayers.

*Priest continues with the introduction of the intercessory prayers.*

*Meanwhile, parents and Godparents go to the Sacristy. Parents and Godparents can clothe the baby while the collection is taken. The Godparents and parents carry the child, the candle, and the gifts in procession. The Sacristan will cue them. Godparents may extinguish the candle when they return to their seats.*

*The priest concludes the prayers of the faithful, and then goes back to the altar as the music for the Preparation Song plays.*

*Liturgy of the Eucharist as usual, and then announcements.*

## **The Final Blessing**

*The priest invites the family of the newly baptized forward for blessing.  
(Alternate blessing available on p127 Rite of Baptism for Children)*

## **Blessing of the Mother**

**Priest:** God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May He bless the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him/her in thanking Him forever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen

### **Blessing of the Father**

**Priest:** God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May He bless the father of this child. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **Blessing of the Assembly**

**Priest:** By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may He continue to pour out his blessings upon these sons and daughters of his. May He make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May He send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May almighty God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Cantor:** *Song of Sending Forth.*

*07-19-07*

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