

HOLY BAPTISM
with
CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION,
and
REAFFIRMATION

This rite is used whenever Baptisms and Confirmations occur together. The Bishop is the Celebrant. Except at the Easter Vigil, the rite follows the Sermon. This form may be used at the Easter Vigil in accordance with the rubrics and Additional Directions for that service.

The Candidates with their Sponsors stand before the Bishop. The Bishop customarily sits in a chair in front of the Altar Table.

THE PRESENTATION

The Bishop says

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN

The Candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, using full names as follows

I present N.N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Bishop asks Candidates the following

Bishop Have you already been baptized?

Candidate **No.**

Bishop Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate **I do.**

INFANTS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN

Then the Candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Godparents and Sponsoring Parents, using full names, as follows

I present N.N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When the following promises are made by Godparents and Sponsoring Parents of infants or young children, the Bishop addresses them

Today, on behalf of *this child*, you shall make vows to renounce the devil and all his works, to trust God wholeheartedly, and to serve him faithfully. It is your task to see that *this child* is taught, as soon as *he* is able to learn, the meaning of all these vows, and of the Faith that you will profess as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. *He* must come to put *his* faith in Jesus Christ, and learn the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things that a Christian ought to know, believe, and do for the welfare of *his* soul. When *he* has embraced all these, *he* is to come to the Bishop to be confirmed, that *he* may publicly claim the Faith for *his* own and be further strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ and his kingdom.

Are you willing and ready to undertake this?

Godparents and Sponsoring Parents

I am, the Lord being my helper.

ADULTS SEEKING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bishop says

The candidate(s) for *Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation* will now be presented.

The Candidate(s) and Presenters stand facing the Bishop as their Presenters say

Presenters **Reverend Father in God, we present these persons to receive the laying on of hands.**

Bishop Have they been adequately prepared?
Presenters They have.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Bishop examines all the Candidates, together with any Godparents and Sponsoring Parents, saying

Question Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

The Bishop then prays over the Baptismal Candidate(s) and may anoint each Candidate with the Oil of Exorcism, saying

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop continues

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer **I do.**

Question Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Answer **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

The Bishop addresses the Congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

We will.

The Bishop then says

Let us join with *these Candidates* to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Bishop Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

People **I do.**

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People **I do.**
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR HOLY BAPTISM

The Bishop now prays for the baptismal Candidates as follows

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon *these* your *servants*. Wash and sanctify *them* through your Holy Spirit, that *they* may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, *they* may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

If there is a procession to the baptismal font, a psalm, anthem, or hymn may be sung.

The Deacon, or the Bishop, pours the water for Baptism.

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Bishop continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Here the Bishop touches the water and says

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Bishop may say to the Sponsors,

Name this *Candidate/Child*.

Then the Bishop immerses the Candidate or pours water upon the Candidate three times, saying

N, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Bishop makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized (and may use the Oil of Chrism to do so), saying

N., receive the sign of the Cross as a token of your new life in Christ, in which you shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight bravely under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your days. **Amen.**

or this

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

If garments or candles are presented, they are given here.

When all have been baptized and signed the Bishop says

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants* the forgiveness of sin, received *them* as your own *children* by adoption, made *them* members of your holy Church, and raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that *they* may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop continues

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Bishop and People

We receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

THE CONFIRMATIONS, RECEPTIONS AND REAFFIRMATIONS

The Bishop continues

Let us now pray for those who have made an adult profession of Faith and who seek the laying on of hands.

Almighty and everliving God, we beseech you to strengthen these your servants for witness and ministry through the power of your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in them your manifold virtues of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and the spirit of holy fear, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR CONFIRMATION

Each confirmand kneels in front of the Bishop. The Bishop, then laying his hands upon the person's head, prays

Defend, O Lord, this your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until *he* comes into the fullness of your everlasting kingdom.

People **Amen.**

Or this

Strengthen, O Lord, with your Holy Spirit, your servant N.; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life.

People **Amen.**

FOR RECEPTION

Those having made adult professions of faith in other Christian traditions are Received with the laying on of hands as follows.

Strengthen, O Lord, with your Holy Spirit, your servant N., whom we recognize as a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and receive into the fellowship of this Communion. Empower *him* for your service, and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life.

People **Amen.**

FOR REAFFIRMATION

The Bishop may also accept with the laying on of hands the Reaffirmation of vows by a person who has previously been Confirmed or Received in this Church.

N., the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and empower you by his grace, that you may continue in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ all the days of your life.

People **Amen.**

The Bishop may make the sign of the Cross with the Oil of Chrism on the forehead of any receiving the laying on of hands, and may say

N., I sign you with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUDING PRAYER AFTER THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bishop then says

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be upon *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Holy Word, that *they* may faithfully serve you in this life, and joyfully dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At a liturgy other than the Easter Vigil, the Exchange of the Peace and Offertory follow.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the following blessing may be used.

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, and fight the good fight of faith, that you may finish your course with joy; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS

It is particularly appropriate that parents, godparents, or others of godly influence be Presenters at Confirmation.

The Prayers of the People are not used in this Liturgy. However, the Bishop may invite intercessions at an appropriate time.

After the Baptism and signing, and prior to the giving of the candle (if there be one), a white garment may be placed upon the newly baptized. The Bishop says, "Receive this white garment as a token of the righteousness given you by God's grace in this Sacrament of Baptism, and as a sign that you should always give yourself to holy living for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Deacon or Bishop may light a candle from the Paschal Candle and give it to the newly baptized, saying, "N., receive the light of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Those who have been Received with the laying on of hands according to this liturgy are considered to have been Confirmed in this Church.