

THE ROMAN RITUAL

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**RITE OF BAPTISM
FOR CHILDREN**

APPROVED FOR USE IN THE DIOCESES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
AND CONFIRMED BY THE APOSTOLIC SEE

With Complete Biblical Readings

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CHAPTER II

RITE OF BAPTISM FOR ONE CHILD

RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

72. If possible, baptism should take place on Sunday, the day on which the Church celebrates the paschal mystery. It should be conferred in a communal celebration in the presence of the faithful, or at least of relatives, friends, and neighbors, who are all to take an active part in the rite.

73. It is the role of the father and mother, accompanied by the godparents, to present the child to the Church for baptism.

74. The people may sing a psalm or hymn suitable for the occasion. Meanwhile the celebrating priest or deacon, vested in alb or surplice, with a stole (with or without a cope) of festive color, and accompanied by the ministers, goes to the entrance of the church or to that part of the church where the parents and godparents are waiting with the child.

75. The celebrant greets all present, and especially the parents and godparents, reminding them briefly of the joy with which the parents welcomed this child as a gift from God, the source of life, who now wishes to bestow his own life on this little one.

76. First the celebrant questions the parents:

Celebrant:

What name do you give your child? (or: have you given?)

Parents:

N.

Celebrant:

What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents:

Baptism.

The celebrant may choose other words for this dialogue.

The first reply may be given by someone other than the parents if local custom gives him the right to name the child.

In the second response the parents may use other words, such as, "faith," "the grace of Christ," "entrance into the Church," "eternal life."

77. The celebrant speaks to the parents in these or similar words:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) 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.

78. Then the celebrant turns to the godparents and addresses them in these or similar words:

Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents:

We are.

79. The celebrant continues:

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.

He signs the child on the forehead, in silence. Then he invites the parents and (if it seems appropriate) the godparents to do the same.

80. The celebrant invites the parents, godparents, and the others to take part in the liturgy of the word. If circumstances permit, there is a procession to the place where this will be celebrated, during which a song is sung e.g., Psalm 84: 7, 8, 9ab (p. 130 **1**).

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

Scriptural Readings and Homily

81. One or even two of the following gospel passages are read, during which all may sit if convenient.

John 3: 1-6: The meeting with Nicodemus (p. 111 **3**).

Matthew 28: 18-20: The apostles are sent to preach the gospel and to baptize (p. 108 **2**).

According to circumstances, this second form may be expressed with greater precision by the conferences of bishops, especially in places where it is necessary for the parents and godparents to reject superstitious and magical practices used with children.

95. Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:

Celebrant:

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

Parents and godparents:

I do.

Celebrant:

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?

Parents and godparents:

I do.

Celebrant:

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?

Parents and godparents:

I do.

96. The celebrant and the congregation give their assent to this profession of faith:

Celebrant:

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

All:

Amen.

If desired, some other formula may be used instead, or a suitable song by which the community expresses its faith with a single voice.

Baptism

97. The celebrant invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:

Celebrant:

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.

He baptizes the child, saying:

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father,

He immerses the child or pours water upon it.

and of the Son,

He immerses the child or pours water upon it a second time.

and of the Holy Spirit.

He immerses the child or pours water upon it a third time.

After the child is baptized, it is appropriate for the people to sing a short acclamation. (See nos. 225-245.)

If the baptism is performed by the pouring of water, it is preferable that the child be held by the mother (or father). Where, however, it is felt that the existing custom should be retained, the godmother (or godfather) may hold the child. If baptism is by immersion, the mother or father (godmother or godfather) lifts the child out of the font.

Anointing with Chrism

98. Then the celebrant says:

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.

Then the celebrant anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism, in silence.

Clothing with the White Garment

99. The celebrant says:

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. A different color is not permitted unless demanded by local custom. It is desirable that the family provide the garment.

Lighted Candle

100. The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says:
Receive the light of Christ.

Someone from the family (such as the father or godfather) lights the child's candle from the Easter candle.

The celebrant then says:

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 or Prayer over Ears and Mouth

101. If the conference of bishops decides to preserve the practice, the rite of Ephphetha follows. [In the United States it may be performed at the discretion of the minister.] The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:

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.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

102. Next there is a procession to the altar, unless the baptism was performed in the sanctuary. The lighted candle is carried for the child.

A baptismal song is appropriate at this time, e.g.:

You have put on Christ,
in him you have been baptized.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Other songs may be chosen from nos. 225-245.

Lord's Prayer

103. The celebrant stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, godparents, and the whole assembly in these or similar words:

Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He (she) is now called the child of God, for so indeed he (she) is. In confirmation he (she) will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion he (she) will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his (her) Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of this child, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

104. All present join the celebrant in singing or saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

V. ACCLAMATIONS AND HYMNS

Acclamations from Sacred Scripture

225. Lord God, who is your equal?
Strong, majestic, and holy!
Worthy of praise, worker of wonders!
(Exodus 15: 11)
226. God is light: in him there is no
darkness.
(1 John 1: 5)
227. God is love: he who lives in love,
lives in God.
(1 John 4: 16)
228. There is one God, one Father of all:
he is over all, and through all:
he lives in all of us.
(Ephesians 4: 6)
229. Come to him and receive his light!
(Psalm 33: 6)
230. Blessed be God who chose you in
Christ.
(see Ephesians 1: 4)
231. You are God's work of art, created
in Christ Jesus.
(Ephesians 2: 10)
232. You are now God's children, my
dearest friends.
What you shall be in his glory has
not yet been revealed.
(1 John 3: 2)
233. Think of how God loves you!
He calls you his own children,
and that is what you are.
(1 John 3: 1)
234. Happy are those who have washed
their robes clean:
washed in the blood of the Lamb!
(Revelation 22: 14)

235. All of you are one:
united in Christ Jesus.
(Galatians 3: 28)
236. Imitate God, walk in his love,
just as Christ loves us.
(Ephesians 5: 1-2)

Hymns in the Style of the New Testament

237. Praised be the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ:
a God so merciful and kind!
He has given us a new birth, a living
hope,
by raising Jesus his Son from death.
Salvation is our undying inheritance,
preserved for us in heaven,
salvation at the end of time.
(1 Peter 1: 3-5)
238. How great the sign of God's love
for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord:
promised before all time began,
revealed in these last days.
He lived and suffered and died for us,
but the Spirit raised him to life.
People everywhere have heard his
message
and placed their faith in him.
What wonderful blessings he gives
his people:
living in the Father's glory,
he fills all creation
and guides it to perfection.

Songs from Ancient Liturgies

239. We believe in you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Fill our hearts with your radiance,
and make us the children of light!
240. We come to you, Lord Jesus.
Fill us with your life,
Make us children of the Father,
and one in you.
241. Lord Jesus, from your wounded side
flowed streams of cleansing water:
the world was washed of all its sin,
and life made new again!
242. The Father's voice calls us above the waters,
the glory of the Son shines on us,
the love of the Spirit fills us with life.
243. Holy Church of God, stretch out your hand
and welcome your children
newborn of water
and of the Spirit of God.
244. Rejoice, you newly baptized,
chosen members of the kingdom.
Buried with Christ in death,
you are reborn in him by faith.
245. This is the fountain of life,
water made holy by the suffering of Christ,
washing all the world.
You who are washed in this water
have hope of heaven's kingdom.

VI. FORMS OF THE FINAL BLESSING

- 1.
246. See the formula in the rite of baptism for several children, no. 70.
- 2.
247. *Celebrant:*
May God the almighty Father, who filled the world with joy by
giving us his only Son, bless these newly-baptized children. May
they grow to be more fully like Jesus Christ our Lord.
- All:*
Amen.
- Celebrant:*
May almighty God, who gives life on earth and in heaven, bless
the parents of these children. They thank him now for the gift
he has given them. May they always show that gratitude in ac-
tion by loving and caring for their children.
- All:*
Amen.
- Celebrant:*
May almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and
the Holy Spirit, generously bless all of us who are his faithful
children. May we always live as his people, and may he bless all
here present with his peace.
- All:*
Amen.
- Celebrant:*
May almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy
Spirit, bless you.
- All:*
Amen.
- 3.
248. *Celebrant:*
May God, the source of life and love, who fills the hearts of
mothers with love for their children, bless the mothers of these