
The Dignity of a Christian

After the pagan days of old, when it seemed like the whole world was Catholic, it more and more became the norm to baptize children, and yet like the ancient neophytes of Rome, the tradition of the wearing of white was retained. Many families have christening gowns that are handed through the generations, but even if you are starting a new tradition in your family, the children to be baptized should wear white as a symbol of their Christian dignity & purity.



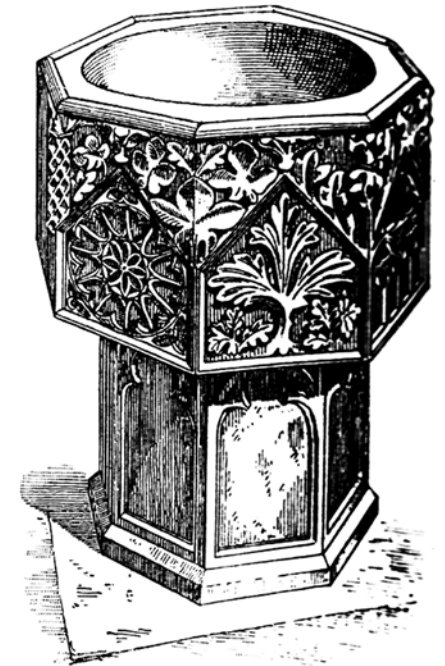
What's In a Name

Church law indicates that parents, godparents and parish priests are to take care that a name given to the child should not be *foreign* to Christian sentiment. As such, by tradition, the holy name (saints name) is *usually* given to Catholic children. Certainly in Baptism we also receive the name "Christian," as part of the rite involves chrismation (or anointing) with the sacred oils. The oil marks the Christian as belonging to the Lord.

Illumination

While the rite involves water and oil, it has been called enlightenment in ages past as well, because by this sacrament the Christian is associated being brought into the light of Christ. The godparents will be given a lit candle to represent this great faith received. A small flame is so fragile, and can so easily be starved or extinguished if it is not guarded and kept burning (which is the responsibility of the parents and godparents to keep the flame of faith alive in the baptized child). But lest we forget, just that small flickering flame can also set the world ablaze with holiness. Our faith is like that flame. It can be great, or it can be lost. So much depends upon you.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM



"Let the children come unto me;
do not prevent them,
for the Kingdom of God
belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED,
EVERY ONE OF YOU,
IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE FORGIVENESS
OF YOUR SINS; AND YOU WILL
RECEIVE THE GIFT
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ACTS 2:37-38

Baptism is the first Sacrament we receive and the beginning of a Journey in Faith that will take us through our lifetime on earth and into Eternity. The pouring of water and anointing with oils make us members of the Body of Christ and heirs of Heaven. The newly baptized child or adult receives forgiveness of both Original Sin and all personal sins. They receive the grace to become all God made them to be with the task of taking the Light of Christ wherever they go. The Sacrament of Baptism makes it possible for us to receive other sacraments and opens the Gates of Heaven to us. Baptism is, as are all Sacraments, a sign of Christ living and loving in the world; an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace. The parish prefers to celebrate the Rite of Baptism for newborns during Mass

but there have been exceptions for Baptisms at separate times, which have to be worked out with the schedule of the priest or deacon. Preparation for parents is essential and required prior to a child's baptism for the faithful celebration and living out of this vital Sacrament. These classes are scheduled by appointment. Baptismal forms can be found on the parish website or acquired through the DRE, and these must be filled out by the parents and given to Linda Hermann or to Leyda Rojas before a date and time can be reserved for the Baptism. Parents are encouraged to begin to anticipate their child's baptism by planning even prior their child's birth. Godparents may be required to procure from their parishes some letter indicating that they are Catholics in good standing. For more information, contact Linda Hermann 706-253-3078 or 706 692-5184. For the Spanish Community contact Leyda Rojas at 770-894-9760.



Godparents

“Whenever a person is baptized...there should be at least one person present who will act as a sponsor for the one being baptized. The sponsor accepts the responsibility of helping the person grow in the Catholic Faith. One who acts as a sponsor for an infant or child agrees to help the parents teach their child about the Faith and how to live as a practicing Catholic.” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults pg 189)

Church law requirements for Godparents:

- They should be at least 16 years of age.
 - They must be Catholics who have received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion.
 - They must live a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith. Fallen away Catholics may not serve as Godparents.
 - If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
 - Parents of the child to be baptized may not serve as Godparents.
 - If only one Godparent is chosen, parents may ask someone baptized in a non-Catholic community to serve as a Christian Witness to the ceremony along with the Catholic Godparent.
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