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## 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 down through the generations, but even if you are starting a new tradition in your family, the child to be baptized should wear white as a symbol of his/her Christian dignity and purity.



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## What's in a Name?

Church law indicates that parents, godparents, and parish priests are to take care that a child's name not be *foreign* to Christian sentiment. As such, by tradition, a saint's name is usually given to a Catholic child.

In Baptism, we also receive the label "Christian," as part of the rite involves chrismation (or anointing) with the sacred oils. The oil marks the child as belonging to the Lord.

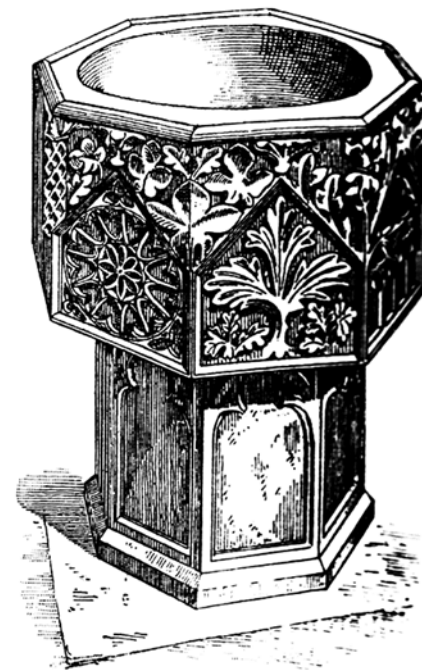
## Illumination

While the rite involves water and oil, it also includes a lit candle. The rite has been called *Enlightenment* in ages past, because by this sacrament, the Christian is 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 extinguished if it is not guarded and kept burning. It is the responsibility of the parents and godparents to keep this 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.

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## 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

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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

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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 receives forgiveness of both Original Sin and all personal sins. We receive the grace to become all God made us to be, with the task of taking the Light of Christ wherever we 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.

We prefer to celebrate the Rite of Baptism for newborns during Mass, but if you wish another time, we will try to

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accommodate your wishes if there are no other scheduling conflicts.

We require that parents take a preparation class before their child's baptism, so that they can faithfully understand, celebrate, and subsequently live out this vital Sacrament. These classes are scheduled by appointment. Baptism Registration and Godparent forms can be found on the parish website or acquired through Scott Curran, our Director of Religious Education, or Leyda Rojas, our Hispanic Liaison. These forms must be filled out by the parents and returned before a date and time can be

reserved for the Baptism. We encourage parents to anticipate their child's baptism by planning even prior to their child's birth. If the Godparents are not parishioners at Our Lady of the Mountains, they must supply a *Catholic in Good Standing* letter signed by their parish priest. Question? Contact Scott Curran, 706-253-3079 or Leyda Rojas, 770-894-9760.



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## 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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