

Rite of Admission to the Catechumenate

For those bringing a child for baptism.

The parents (and sponsors) bring the child to the altar or chancel step.

Priest What do you seek?
Parents (and Sponsors) **New life through baptism for our child N.**
Priest Will you be regular in attending the
worship of God, and in receiving
instruction?
Parents (and Sponsors) **We will.**
Priest Will you pray for N. and help *him/her*
grow in knowledge and love of God by
your example?
Parents (and Sponsors) **We will.**
Priest Let us pray.

Eternal and loving God, you have promised to be faithful
to a thousand generations of those who love and revere you:
✠ bless this child N. and preserve *his/her* life;
receive *him/her* and enable *him/her* to receive you,
that through the sacrament of Holy Baptism
he/she may become your child in Christ
and a member of your Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

To the congregation

People of God, it is our intention to present N.
for Holy Baptism on [date].
I commend N., *his/her* parents and sponsors,
to your prayers and your loving support.

The Prayers of the People follow.



Request for Baptism

Parish of

Holy Baptism is a sacrament of Christ's holy catholic Church. The decision to request Baptism is an important life decision and an act of celebration belonging to the whole Church. Those making such requests should take note of the following in accordance with the Bishop's Directive 2.1:

- 1) It is assumed that candidates for the sacrament of baptism (or their parents and sponsors) are actively involved in the life and work of the Church and able to make the vows and promises required (see page 2) Those not currently active members of a church family are encouraged to consider a three to six month period of consistent attendance at Divine worship before a request is made.
- 2) The month preceding baptism is considered a time of intensive preparation and those making requests will normally be admitted to the catechumenate at a regular gathering of the Christian community prior to instruction (see page 4).
- 3) Candidates (or in the case of children, parents and sponsors) will normally make themselves available for the preparation and instruction offered by the parish preceding the baptism. If sponsors live at a distance and participation in preparation is difficult or impossible, they may wish to seek instruction in their home church or parish.

Requests for Adult Baptism

- 1) Adults normally receive both the sacraments of baptism and confirmation at the same service. If this is the case, instruction for confirmation may precede preparation for baptism.
- 2) In circumstances where baptism alone is received it is assumed the candidate will seek instruction and the sacrament of confirmation as soon as possible following the baptism.
- 3) Clergy are to advise the Bishop of requests for the baptism of adults.

Requests for the Baptism of Infants or Children

- 1) Parents of children should make requests using the form available from the Rector.
- 2) The choice of sponsors at baptism is important. Parents (at least one) and sponsors must be able to make the promises required and are usually active members of a Christian faith community. Difficulty in making decisions about sponsors, the timing of the celebration, etc. should not be seen as failure but may be reason for delaying the baptism until suitable arrangements can be made.

If you plan to make a request for Baptism, you may find "Thinking About Baptism" (John W.B. Hill) helpful. If you have questions or concerns please make an appointment to see the incumbent or parish priest.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

Adults and Older Children

- Do you desire to be baptized?

Infants and Younger Children (Parents and Sponsors)

- Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?
- Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?
- Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
- Do you renounce all evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
- Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
- Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?
- Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
- Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

The Baptismal Covenant

- Do you believe in God the Father?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?