

The Responses

PARENT'S ROLE DURING THE BAPTISM

**The parents of the child will be asked to respond to a question from the priest a few times throughout the Baptism.
These are the responses:**

PRIEST (OR DEACON): "What name do you give your child?"

PARENTS: Say your child's given name.

PRIEST (OR DEACON): "What do you ask of God's Church for [CHILD'S NAME]?"

PARENTS: "Baptism."

PRIEST (OR DEACON): "In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him (her) in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he(she) may love the Lord and his(her) neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?"

PARENTS: "We do." The priest (or deacon) will then ask parents and godparents to trace the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead.

The priest (or deacon) will call upon everyone present to renew their baptismal promises. All present respond to each question.

ALL: "I do."

PRIEST (OR DEACON): "Is it your will, therefore, that [CHILD'S NAME] should receive Baptism in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?"

PARENTS: "It is."

THE ORDER AND MEANING OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM

Reception of the Child – The parents and godparents present the child for Baptism and accept the responsibility of raising the child in the faith. Along with the priest or deacon, the parents and godparents trace the sign of the cross on the child's forehead as a sign of being claimed for Christ.

Liturgy of the Word – The priest or deacon reads a passage from the Gospel and gives a homily on the meaning and importance of Baptism.

Intercessions – The priest or deacon prays for the parents, godparents, and child(ren) who will be receiving baptism and the gathered community responds.

Invocation of the Saints – The intercession of the saints is invoked to pray for the child(ren). Ask the priest or deacon to include the saint your child is named after or patron saint.

Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing – The priest prays over the child(ren) to be cleansed from the stain of Original Sin and then anoints the child with the Oil of Catechumens.

Blessing of the Water – The priest or deacon blesses the water to be used for Baptism and asks the Holy Spirit to make the waters of the font holy. The prayer includes several images and scripture references about the significance water.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith – Parents, godparents and the gathered community are invited to renew their baptismal promises and the responsibility they have to raise the child in the faith.

Baptism – The priest or deacon pours water over the child's head with the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Anointing with Sacred Chrism – The second time the child is anointed, this time with the Chrism Oil now united to Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king.

Clothing with White Garment – The child receives a white garment to "put on Christ" and a symbol of the newness and purity of their Baptism. (At Nativity, the godmother will receive the white garment and assist in putting it on the child.)

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle – Parents are given a baptismal candle that has been lit from the Easter candle as a symbol of the light of Christ now present in their child and the faith handed down in the family.

Ephatha ("Be opened") – The priest or deacon blesses the child's ears and mouth to be open to the Word of God and to proclaim it.

Our Father – The gathered community prays the Lord's Prayer together.

Final Blessing – The priest or deacon concludes the Baptism Liturgy with a blessing of the parents and gathered community as we are sent forth to bring the light of Christ out into the world.