

My Cup Runneth Over ...



“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.” (CCC 1213)+

*As God fills us with His love and grace, we become eager to share what we have received.

*But no matter how much we give, we never come away empty; God fills us back up again! In fact, the more of God’s love we share, the more we are able to hold!

So What Now?

*Children are natural gift givers and want to make others happy. Encourage your child to pray for friends and family, neighbors and even people they don’t know so that God’s love can touch them too. Your family will benefit from praying together in the morning and evening, before meals and even when driving in the car.



*Inspire your child to invite *their* friends to church or a religious celebration by inviting yours. Model for your child your happiness at being in the presence of God.

*Hang holy pictures and a crucifix in your home to remind your family how much God loves them. Remind them that we are part of God’s family and receive God’s special grace every day.



Where is Baptism in the Bible?

*Matthew 28:19

*Acts 2:38-41

*John 3:22 and 4:1-2

*Acts 10:47-48

The Working Parents Guide Sacraments on the Run



Baptism

Have you ever felt unhappy with the way your life was turning out? Maybe you have known the feeling of wanting love and a place to belong. God shows us love in many ways. We have family, friends, daily enjoyments, things to learn and even sufferings, which can lead us to realize how much we need God and His love in our lives. We give hugs and receive them. We put time into our children’s lives focusing on their interests, needs and dreams. God loves us too, only more perfectly! In fact, God is CRAZY about us! Through the sacrament of baptism, we respond to God who is reaching out to us constantly, and we become part of the Family of God! We are able to live in a special relationship with God and with all of the other people in the whole world! Through our new relationship with Christ we are able to know what it means to belong, to really be loved and to be able to give God’s love to others, especially our children and family members!



Why is Baptism so Important?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1213-1284) teaches:

*In Baptism, we receive a special gift from God called grace, which helps us to know God's love for us and plan for our salvation.

*God shows us His love through natural things; water, oil, and other people.

*"Since the beginning of the world, water, so humble and wonderful a creature, has been the source of life and fruitfulness." (CCC 1218)



*Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation and the gateway to the other six sacraments!

All in the Family ...

*The Family of God becomes our family when we are baptized.



*This includes all those who are baptized, those living as Jesus wants us to live, and those who have died in friendship with God.

*Every family has a home. In the Family of God, our home on earth is the Church. Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20, NIV)

*Scripture says that God is preparing a mansion for each of us in heaven, where we can live in happiness with God forever.

Why is Baptism Necessary?

"Baptism gives us the grace of new birth in God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit." St Irenaeus of Lyons



Jesus Got Baptized...



So, Jesus saw his cousin, John, in the Jordan River baptizing people and Jesus asked John to baptize him. John was hesitant because he knew how holy Jesus was. Jesus assured him that he wanted to be baptized. So, John did. "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17, NIV)

We Get Baptized ...

*When we get baptized, we don't see the heavens opening up, but we know that the Holy Spirit is present.

*The Holy Spirit is represented sometimes by wind, fire or a dove. In baptism, we receive a lit candle to show the presence of the Holy Spirit and to help us walk always in faith.



*Baptism gives us the dignity of being a child of God. We receive a white garment to symbolize that and help us live our faith.

*We are also marked with Holy Chrism, a special oil used at Baptism. St Augustine said that the Holy Spirit kisses our soul and leaves a permanent mark to show that we belong to God!

Light the Way!

We help our children remember that they are members of the Family of God when we light their baptismal candle on special days in their lives; their birthday, at Easter time, their baptism day and when celebrating other sacraments!

