

# *Blessing Over Baptismal Water*

*(Rite of Baptism #54)*

Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power.

In baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness.

The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Father, look now with love upon your church, and unseal for her the foundation of baptism.

By the power of the Holy Spirit give to the water the grace of your Son, so that in the sacrament of baptism all those whom you have created in your likeness may be cleansed from sin and rise to a new birth of innocence by water and the Holy Spirit.

We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Closing Prayer Service

## Signing of the Senses

*As you read each signing, make the sign of the cross and respond: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*

- + Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead. It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*
- + Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.**  
*Response: Lord Jesus, we will be a sign of your love.*

Final Blessing

- + I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**  
*Response: Amen.*

# *Closing Prayer Service*

## *Profession of Faith*

As followers of Jesus, we stand united through Baptism as a community of faith. Let us together remember and profess the faith which unites us.

✦ **Do you believe in one God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?**

*Response: I do.*

✦ **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

*Response: I do.*

✦ **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

*Response: I do.*

✦ **This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Response: Amen.*

Through our Baptism we became joined with Christ, and members of the Church. As we strive to live as Christians, let us together ask for God's guidance as we share the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father....**

# *Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism: Rite and Symbols*

## 1. Reception of the Child

- + Naming the Child and Request of Parents
- + Commitment of Parents and Godparents
- + Sign of the Cross



## 2. Celebration of God's Word

- + Scriptural Readings and Homily
- + Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)
- + Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing (optional) before Baptism



## 3. Celebration of the Sacrament

- + Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water
- + Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith
- + Baptism

*Water:* symbol of death and life. Water can destroy; in Baptism a person dies with Jesus, Water gives life; in Baptism a person receives new life in the risen Christ.



### 3. Celebration of the Sacrament

#### + Anointing with Sacred Chrism

*Oil of Chrism:* “signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian, that is, one ‘anointed’ by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ, who is priest, prophet, and king” (Catechism #1241); “Christ” comes from the Greek *Christos* which means “anointed one.”



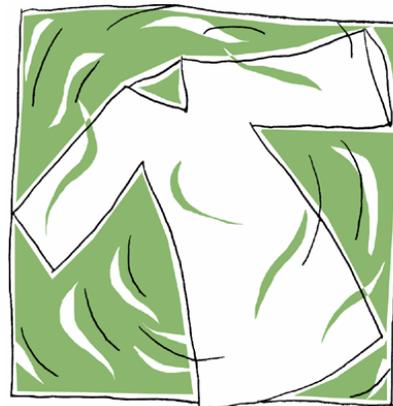
#### + Clothing with the White Garment

*White Garment:* “symbolizes that the person baptized has ‘put on Christ, has risen with Christ’ (Catechism #1243)



#### + Light Candle

*Lighted Candle:* symbol of the light of Christ.



#### + Ephphetha or Prayer over Ears and Mouth (optional)

### 4. Conclusion of the Rite

#### + Lord's Prayer

#### + Blessing



