

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
13 North St., Geneseo, NY



Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace – Sacraments of Initiation I

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Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace Sacraments of Initiation I

Let us pray



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- Review
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1131- “The Sacraments are **efficacious signs** of grace, **instituted by Christ** and **entrusted to the Church**, by which divine life is **dispensed** to us.”
 - Baltimore Catechism - “A sacrament is an **outward sign instituted** by Christ to give **grace**.”
 - Sacrament as gift
 - Mystery - “The sense of the term *mystery* is something **unfathomable**, something so **extraordinary** and **overwhelming** that we can **never fully comprehend** it.” (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 11)

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- Review
 - Jesus instituted the Sacraments
 - The Bible
 - How our understanding of the Sacraments has developed
 - The “things” we use in the Sacraments

My first presentation introducing this series on the sacraments is available online at:

www.renewaloffaith.org/sacramentsvideo

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What are the Three Categories of the Sacraments?

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What are the Three Categories of the Sacraments?

1. Sacraments of Initiation
2. Sacraments of Healing
3. Sacraments of Service

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What does the word "initiation" mean?

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Which of the Seven Sacraments are "Sacraments of Initiation"?

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Sacraments of Initiation

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1212

"The sacraments of Christian initiation – **Baptism**, **Confirmation**, and the **Eucharist** – lay the foundations of every Christian life."

Sacraments of Healing

- Anointing of the Sick
- Reconciliation

Sacraments of Service

- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

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"Baptism" as the "gateway" to the Sacraments

Quote from last time

"In adults, there can never be a validly received sacrament without a willingness to encounter God (at least a "habitual" intention) **and**, in all sacraments other than baptism, the **previous** reception of this **initial** sacrament." (Irwin, *The Sacraments*, 104)

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What is Baptism?

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What is Baptism?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1214

"to baptize (Greek *baptizein*) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."



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What is Baptism? (cont'd)

Romans 6:3-5

"Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the Resurrection."

All of the sacraments are a sharing in the Paschal Mystery

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Baptism - Scripture

New Testament (When did Jesus institute Baptism?)

- Jesus' Baptism
 - Matthew 3:13-17
 - Mark 1:9-11
 - Luke 3:21-22
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1224 – "Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying."
- Matthew 28:19

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Baptism - Scripture

New Testament institution cont'd

- "In his dialogue with Nicodemus, Jesus taught that Baptism was necessary for salvation. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5)." *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 183.

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Baptism

How is Baptism prefigured in the Old Testament?

- Noah and the great flood
 - Genesis ch. 6-9
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1219
- Crossing the Red Sea
 - Exodus ch. 14
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1221
- Crossing Jordan
 - Joshua ch. 3
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1222

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Baptism

Historical Development

When did we first see people baptized?

- The Baptism of John
- The Baptism of Jesus
- Acts of the Apostles 2:41 (right after Pentecost) followed Peter's Pentecost Speech

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day."

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Baptism – The Rite

"The eight major elements in the baptismal ceremony"
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (184-187)

1. Sign of the Cross (naming)
2. Readings from Scripture
3. Exorcism and first Anointing
4. Blessing of the water
5. Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith (aka Baptismal Promises)
6. The pouring of water and correct words
7. Anointing with Chrism
8. Reception of the White Garment and Candle

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Baptismal Promises

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?
Parents & Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: And all his works?
Parents & Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?
Parents & Godparents: **I do.**

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Baptismal Promises cont'd

Celebrant: Do you believe in the God the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents & Godparents: **I do.**


Celebrant: 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?

Parents & Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: 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?

Parents & Godparents: **I do.**

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Things We Use in the Rite of Baptism


Water

(Catechism of the Church, 1238-1240)

"**Name**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."



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Things We Use in the Rite of Baptism (cont'd)


Oil

(Catechism of the Church, 1241-1242)



"He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as members of his body, sharing everlasting life. Amen."

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Things We Use in the Rite of Baptism (cont'd)

White garment

(Catechism of the Church, 1243)

- "**Name**, you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. **See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian Dignity.** With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of Heaven.
- Revelation 7:14 "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have **washed** their robes and made them **white** in the **blood** of the Lamb."

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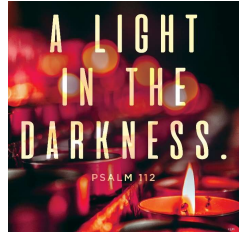
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Things We Use in the Rite of Baptism (cont'd)

Candles

(Catechism of the Church, 1243)

"**Receive the Light of Christ.** Parents and godparent(s), this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom."



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The Role of Godparents

Catechism of the Church, 1255 "For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parent's help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, **who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized – child or adult – on the road of Christian life.** Their task is a truly ecclesial **function** (officium). The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism."

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Effects of Baptism

Indelible Mark (*Catechism of the Church*, 1272-1274)
Catechism of the Church, 1121 "The three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders confer, in addition to grace, a **sacramental character** or "seal" by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This **configuration** to Christ and to the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is **indelible**; it remains for ever in the Christian as a positive disposition for grace, a promise and guarantee of divine protection, and as a vocation to divine worship and to the service of the Church. Therefore these sacraments **can never be repeated.**"

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Effects of Baptism (cont'd)

Catechism of the Church, 1213
 "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: "Baptism is the sacrament of **regeneration through water** and in the word."

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Effects of Baptism (cont'd)

- Born again – when were you saved?
 - Are we saved in a moment or do we need ongoing conversion?
- Forgiveness of sin (original sin in infants - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1250)
- Receive the Holy Spirit
- Become part of Christian Community (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1267-1271)
 - Matthew 3:13-17 Baptism of the Lord, the heavens were opened

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Who Can Receive Baptism?

From the second reading
of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

"Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth I see that **God shows no partiality**. Rather, in every nation whoever **fears him** and **acts uprightly** is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34b).

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The Baptism of Children

- Whole families were baptized in the Acts of the Apostles
 - Cornelius (chapters 10-11)
 - Prison Guard – "then he and all his family were baptized at once" (Acts 16:33b)
- "Founded Hope" (Code of Canon Law, 868.2)

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The Baptism of Children (cont'd)

- What happens to unbaptized babies who die? (Limbo)
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1129 "The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are *necessary for salvation*."
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1257 "God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, **but he himself is not bound by his sacraments**."
 - Question from last evaluation – "How important is the outward signs for a spiritual grace?"

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What About Those Who Die Without Baptism?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1258 "The Church has always held the firm conviction that **those who suffer death for the sake of the faith** without having received Baptism are baptized by their death, for and with Christ. This *Baptism of blood*, like the *desire for Baptism*, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a Sacrament."

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What About Those Who Die Without Baptism (cont'd)?

CCC 1261 "As regards *children who have died without Baptism*, the Church can only **entrust them to the mercy of God**, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism."

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Baptism

- Who presides
 - Role of clergy vs. individual
 - Bishop, priest, deacon

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Emergency Baptism

When there is **immediate** danger of death, any member of the laity can baptize, if they intend what the church intends, by pouring water over the baby's head and "*baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" (Matthew 28:19) (cf. Comp CCC 256)

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Who is the patron saint of Baptism?

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Patron Saint of Baptism
John the Baptist



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What is Confirmation?

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What is Confirmation?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285

"It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the **completion** of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are **more** perfectly bound to the Church and are **enriched** with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, **more** strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

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Confirmation - Scripture

- In the New Testament
 - Acts 8:14-17- laying of hands
 - Acts 19:1-7
- Is Confirmation prefigured in the Old Testament?
 - Holy Spirit not spoken of in the same way
 - Term "spirit" or "spirit of the Lord"

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Confirmation - Historical development

- Acts of the Apostles
- Laying of hands
- Why separated from baptism?
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1290-1291
- St. Pius X lowered the age of First Communion but not Confirmation

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The Rite of Confirmation

"Confirmation takes place as a rule within Mass in order that the fundamental connection of this sacrament with all of Christian initiation may stand out in clearer light. **Christian initiation reaches its culmination in the communion of the body and blood of Christ.** The newly confirmed therefore participate in the Eucharist, which completes their Christian initiation." (Rite of Confirmation, 13)

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The Rite of Confirmation (cont'd)

- After the gospel reading
- Presentation of the Candidates (remember Baptism begins by asking child's name)
- Homily
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises (intimate connection to Baptism)
- **The Laying of Hands**
- **The Anointing with Chrism**
- General Intercessions

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Things We Use in the Rite of Confirmation

Laying of Hands (CCC 1288)

"Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."
Acts 8:17

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Things We Use in the Rite of Confirmation (cont'd)

Sacred Chrism

(CC 1289)



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Effects of Confirmation

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1302

"It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost."

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Effects of Confirmation (cont'd)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1303

"From this fact, Confirmation brings an **increase** and **deepening** of baptismal grace:

- it roots us **more** deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us **more** firmly to Christ;
- it **increases** the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church **more** perfect
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross"

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Who Can Receive Confirmation?

- Those already baptized (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1306*)
- In a state of grace (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1310*)
- **Maturity** (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1308*)

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Roles at Confirmation

- The Role of the Individual
- Those who help prepare the candidate
- Who presides at Confirmation?
 - Bishop – anytime in his own diocese
 - Priest
 - When baptizing or receiving an adult into the Catholic Church
 - By delegation
 - In an emergency
 - Deacons do not confirm

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Roles at Confirmation

Confirmation – Sponsors

- The duties of a sponsor are the same as for Baptism. Therefore, the same qualities are needed (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1255)
 - Firm believers
 - On the road of Christian life

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Who is the patron saint of Confirmation?

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“Homework”

From the evaluations for our last presentation

- “How we can identify with sacraments such as Baptism and Confirmation since they were so long ago”

Suggestions:

- Do you have pictures from your Baptism and/or Confirmation? Do you have them on display so you can see them regularly? Do you have your baptismal candle?
- When you see a person baptized or confirmed now, think about what you feel for them and use that as a way to “recall” your own reception of the Sacrament.

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Future Schedule

- Series on the Sacraments
 - Third Session on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 pm
 - Fourth Session on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 pm

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See the treasure given to us in the Sacraments

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Resources


Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

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Healy, Mary, *Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World*. Our Sunday Visitor: Huntington, IN. 2015.

Irwin, Rev. Kevin W., *The Sacraments: Historical Foundations and Liturgical Theology*. Paulist Press, New York. 2016.

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Resources (cont'd)

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