

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

THE THEOPHANY

OF THE LORD

FIDE

Heart & Soul

Monthly Catechetical Resource

BAPTISM

Issue 2 | September 2022 | Vol.1

TABLE OF CONTENT



<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>What is Baptism?</u>	4
<u>The Saints on Baptism</u>	4
<u>Baptism and Salvation</u>	5
<u>What is Our Baptismal Promise?</u>	6
<u>Our Baptismal Promise</u>	7
<u>Symbols in Baptism</u>	8
<u>Role of Godparents</u>	9
<u>Resources on Baptism</u>	10
<u>Feast Days in September</u>	11
<u>Events in September</u>	12
<u>Events in October</u>	13

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of this year's *Heart & Soul: Monthly Catechetical Resource*! The next several months will be focused on learning about the 7 Sacraments. For the month of September, we will focus on the Sacrament of Baptism. In doing so we will look at what Baptism is, what Baptism consists of, and how we can continue living out our Baptismal call every day. Additionally, in this issue you will find resources, events, and activities that will help you and your family come to know more about the Sacrament of Baptism. You will also find answers to commonly asked questions about Baptism that can be helpful when discussing Baptism with your family (pg. 10). Finally, as always, your SAP and the Director of Evangelization (EJ) are at your service. Feel free to meet or contact them if you need assistance or guidance.



What is Baptism?

Baptism is the first of the initiation Sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), 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 stated in the *Catechism*, there are three purposes to the Sacrament of Baptism.

1. Baptism is salvific in that it cleanses us from the bonds of Original Sin and unites us to God.
2. Baptism is initiative in that we become member of the Body of Christ (The Church).
3. Baptism is adoptive in that we are “born again” as sons and daughters of God and heirs to His Kingdom.

Baptism is essential for the Christian life. Without it we remain disconnected from God, His Church and His Kingdom.



Saints on Baptism

“All of us who desire the kingdom of God are, by the Lord's decree, under an equal and rigorous necessity of seeking after the grace of Baptism.”- St. Basil the Great

“Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.”
- St. Vincent Ferrer

“Baptism is not the work of man but of Christ, and this sacrament is so holy that it would not be defiled, even if the minister were a murderer.”- St. Isadore

“Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them.”- St. Hippolytus

Baptism and Salvation

Jesus tells in John 3:5 that, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” Baptism, according to the words of Jesus, is necessary for Salvation. All of those who have heard the Gospel and are able to receive Baptism must be Baptized in order to inherit eternal life. As such the Catholic Church takes the Sacrament of Baptism very seriously. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are “reborn of water and the Spirit” (CCC 1257). It therefore part of the salvific mission of the Church to bring those outside of the Christian faith to the Sacrament of Baptism.

However, the Church also recognized that some people have not had the privilege of hearing the Gospels or have not had the possibility of Baptism. In such a case, the Church has accepted the theology of an implicit desire of Baptism, which was promoted by St. Thomas Aquinas. Jimmy Akin tells us that Implicit Desire for Baptism is, “the principle that makes it possible for non-Christians to be saved. If they are genuinely committed to seeking

and living by the truth, then they are implicitly committed to seeking Jesus Christ and living by his commands; they just don’t know that he is the Truth they’re seeking” (cf. John 14:6) ([find whole article here](#)). Since God is not bound by the Sacraments, the Church recognizes that those who follow the graces that God has given them and have honestly not heard, or have not been properly convinced of the Gospels, can be saved by an implicit desire for Baptism.





What is Our Baptismal Promise?

At Baptism the priest or deacon will ask of the parents and godparents to make a Baptismal promise on the child's behalf. If, however, the one being Baptized is an adult, then they will offer the Baptismal promise on their own behalf.

Every year we renew our Baptismal Promise during the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday. As Catholics, we do this to remind us of what it is we committed to and promised at our Baptism.

Given that most Catholics are Baptized as infants, we often do not know the promises made on our behalf at Baptism. For this reason, the family, especially parents and godparents, have the responsibility to remind and encourage each other to strive to know and practice their Baptismal promises daily. This should especially be encouraged during Easter when we are renewing these promises as a Church.

Our Baptismal Promise

The Baptismal promises are a set of questions that are asked by the minister of the Sacrament to the parents, godparents, or one being Baptized. These questions are as follows:

Priest. Do you renounce Satan?

All. I do.

P. And all his works?

A. I do.

P. And all his empty promises?

A. I do.

P. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

A. I do.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

A. I do.

P. 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?

A. I do.

P. And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

A. Amen.

Living Out Our Baptismal Promise

Here are tips on how you and your family can help each other live out your Baptismal Promise:

- Celebrate your Baptism Day as if it were your birthday. Your Baptism is your birth into the Church and your freedom from the bonds of sin. It should be rejoiced in, because it is something to rejoice about!
- Try to find opportunities to explain to your children what Baptism means (use the resources on page 10 if needed).
- Repeat your Baptismal promises every month as a family.
- Remind your kids of the importance of their Baptism frequently.
- Try to attend Baptisms when able to remind yourself and your family of what you received at your Baptism.
- Read Scripture and pray as a family (specifically passages on Baptism).
- Sign up for parish events and service projects as it puts into practice your priestly mission!



*"No one can begin
a new life, unless
he repent of the
old."*

- St. Augustine

Symbols in Baptism

If you witness a Baptism you will see there are many different symbols in the ritual of Baptism. In this section we will break down what some of these symbols are and their importance to the Sacrament.

Water

Christ made it that water is necessary for Baptism (John 3:5). But why water?

- Water is a sign of cleansing and purity. At Baptism we are cleansed of Original Sin and made pure.
- Water symbolizes new life. Just as we were brought into this world through water in our mother's womb, so we are reborn through the waters of Baptism.
- The immersion or pouring of water is a symbol of death into life. We are immersed into death and raised up into life through Baptism. This unites us to the death and resurrection of Christ.

Chrism Oil

Chrism is olive oil scented with balsam. It is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. Olive oil is used because it symbolizes new life and was used for healing and strengthening, which is what our spiritual life is undergoing at Baptism. Additionally, oil is a sign of anointing. During Baptism the minister of the Sacrament will bless the one being Baptized with Chrism oil and say, "As Christ was anointed

Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of His body, sharing everlasting life. Amen." But what does it mean to be anointed priest, prophet and king?

1. Priest - we are anointed into the common priesthood to carry on Christ's ministry mission. Among these is the Sacrifice of the Mass where we are not participants, but united with the ordained priest, who represents Christ, in the offering of the Mass as a Sacrifice.

2. Prophet - We are anointed as prophets so that we may bring the Good News of Christ to the world

3. King - We are anointed as king to govern ourselves and to lead others to embrace the Catholic faith.

White Garment

You will notice that everyone who is Baptized in the Catholic Church is asked to wear white clothes (garments) when being Baptized. This is to symbolize the new, cleansed, and pure life that has been given to us by Christ at Baptism.

Candle

Everyone who is Baptized in the Catholic Church will be given a Baptismal Candle which symbolizes the light of Christ within them and that they are now a light to the world. It also reminds us of our responsibility as Catholics to always seek virtue in all we do in order to reflect Christ to the world.

Role of Godparent

The role of godparents in Catholic Baptism has great importance to the Christian life of the one being Baptized. It can be tempting to think that a godparent is an honorary title given to a friend or family member to show how important they are to your family. While it is good to choose someone who is important to your family, the role of godparent is much deeper. Canon Law states, "Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it" (Ch. IV, Can. 872). The sponsor in this case is the godparent. The godparent is then



the spiritual formation of the child being Baptized.

St. Augustine, in fact, proposed the need for a godparent in order to continue the child's spiritual direction in case the parents died. Since godparents take on such a large role in the spiritual formation of the child, it is imperative that parents select a godparent who is willing to accept a life long commitment to assist in raising their child in the Catholic Faith.

As such, there are certain criteria that the godparent must meet according to the teachings of the Catholic Church:

1. Must be 16 years of age
2. Must have received all three Initiation Sacraments (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation).
3. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church
4. If married, must be validly married in the Catholic Church.

Godparents must take the Catholic Faith seriously in order to assist in leading your child to holiness. Therefore, it is imperative that godparents be chosen with prayerful discernment, in order that the one being Baptized receive the proper guidance in the Faith.

Resources

Resources on what Baptism is (Good for teens and adults)

- [Ascension Presents- Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God](#)
- [Catechism of the Catholic Church on Baptism](#)
- [USCCB Resources for Baptism](#)
- [REBORN– Augustine Institute Series on Baptism](#)
- [Catholic Central- Baptism \(Good intro for kids/teens\)](#)
- [FORMED: Baptism \(watch until 15:00\)](#). (Good for educating your self on Baptism in order to teach your kids. Also good for teens)
- [FORMED- Baptism and Grace](#)
- [Jimmy Akin- Short response about Baptism \(good for all ages\)](#)

Teaching Young Kids about Baptism

- [FORMED: Brother Francis on Baptism](#)
- [Kids Coloring Pages and Lessons on Baptism](#)
- [“Jesus Speaks to Me About My Baptism”- Angela M. Burrin](#)
- [Ideas and Activities to teach your kids about Baptism](#)
- [Baptism Water-Bottle Craft](#)
- [Paschal Candle Craft](#)
- [Teacher Pay Teachers– Resources on Baptism](#)
- [Lesson plans for teaching Baptism](#)
- [Baptism Bingo](#)

Teaching Middle School Aged Kids about Baptism

- [Baptism Explained](#)
- [Baptism notebook project](#)

- [Ideas and Activities to teach your kids about Baptism](#)
- [Baptism Water-Bottle Craft](#)
- [Paschal Candle Craft](#)
- [Teacher Pay Teachers– Resources on Baptism](#)
- [Lesson plans for teaching Baptism](#)
- [Baptism Bingo](#)

Baptism in Scripture

- All Scripture passages that speak of Baptism are [here](#)
- [Catholic Answers- What does the Bible say about Baptism?](#)

Church Teachings on Baptism

- [Catechism of the Catholic Church on Baptism](#)
- [Pope St. John Paul II– Homily on Baptism](#)
- [Pope Benedict XVI– Homily on Baptism](#)

Church Fathers on Baptism

- [Quotes from Church Fathers on Baptism](#)
- [Catholic Answers on Church Fathers view on Baptism](#)
- [Trent Horn on Church Fathers and Baptism](#)

Commonly Asked Questions about Baptism

Why did Jesus get Baptized if He is God?

- [Catholic Answers- Why Jesus was Baptized](#)
- [Catholic Company- Why did Jesus get Baptized?](#)
- [Fr. Mike Schmitz- Why did Jesus get Baptized?](#)

Why infant Baptism?

- [FORMED: Baptizing Babies](#)
- [Catholic Answers- Infant Baptism](#)
- [Fr. Josh on Infant Baptism](#)
- [Tim Staples- Biblical Basis for Infant Baptism](#)
- [Church Fathers on Infant Baptism](#)
- [Jimmy Akin on Infant Baptism](#)

Immersion or pouring? How should water Baptism take place?

- [Karlo Broussard on whether full immersion is necessary for Baptism](#)
- [Baptism: Immersion Only?- Catholic Answers](#)

Why does wording matters for a valid Baptism?

- [Bishop Barron on Baptism](#)

Why Baptism is necessary for salvation?

- [Karlo Broussard on the necessity of Baptism for Salvation](#)
- [Tim Staples- Can someone get to heaven without being Baptized?](#)
- [EWTN on if Baptism is necessary for salvation](#)



Feast Days in September

Not all saint days of this month will be listed, but if your patron saint is celebrated this month it is encouraged that you celebrate it. If you need assistance in knowing how to celebrate a saint day, contact the Director of Evangelization.

- **September 8** - Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - [About the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
 - Celebrate Mother Mary's Birthday with "[Mary Cake](#)" (Explanation/recipe in hyperlink).
- **September 14** - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 - [About the Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)
 - Celebrate by displaying a Crucifix in your house and decorating it with flowers.
- **September 21** - Feast of Matthew, Apostle
 - [Story of St. Matthew](#)
 - Make [Silver Dollar Pancakes](#) in honor of St. Matthew formerly being a tax collector
- **September 29** - Feast of Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels.
 - [About the Feast](#)
 - Make a Blackberry Crisp ([Read Legend/ Recipe Here](#))



Events in September

September 3rd

First Saturday

- First Saturday Rosary (7:25am)
- First Saturday Meditation (8:30am)

Wednesdays of September

Mass/Adoration/Confession

- Mass starts at 5:15, followed by adoration and confession.

September 14th

Wednesday FIDE Night (6:30pm)

- *FIDE* gathering time. Meet with your SAPs, the Director of Evangelization (EJ), and/or other families during this time to discuss, share ideas, or just enjoy each other's company. This is an open door event.

September 5th and September 26th

Podcasts on Baptism (English on 5th and Spanish on 26th)

- Video podcasts on Baptism will be released every other week starting on September 5th. These podcasts can be found on YouTube and our Facebook page. All podcast will be directed toward adults, but will be kid friendly as well.

September 18th

Open Hour with Director of Evangelization (After 8am Mass)

- Talk to Director of Evangelization (EJ) about anything regarding theology, spirituality, or philosophy. Location will be in the cafeteria.

September 29th

Catechism Series (3:30pm)

- Fr. Eckert and Michael Becker discuss a section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (live on FB and YouTube at 3:30pm)

Heart & Soul Topic for October: Eucharist

- What is the Eucharist?
- What is transubstantiation?
- What does Scripture say about the Eucharist?
- What are Eucharistic Miracles?
- Resources on the Eucharist
- And more!

Events in October

- First Saturday: October 1st
- First Friday Adoration: October 7th-8th
- Every Wednesday in September: Mass/Adoration/Confession starting with Mass at 5:15pm.
- Wednesday *FIDE* Night: October 19th @6:30pm
- Podcasts Discussing the Eucharist: October 3rd and 24th
- Open Hour with Director of Evangelization (EJ Cerdeiras: October 16th after 8am Mass
- Catechism Series: October 27th @3:30pm

For more information, and to access hyperlinks, scan the QR code on the bottom right, or follow the instructions below to get access on our website:

salburycatholic.org → **Sacraments** → ***FIDE*** → ***Heart and Soul: Monthly Catechetical Resource***



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

375 Lumen Christi Lane

Salisbury, NC 28147

Phone- (704)633-0592

Salburycatholic.org





“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20)

