

BOLD Typface = reference in the Catechism of the Catholic Church

1. Prayer
 2. Students state their understanding of Baptism
 3. What caused you to have the understanding? What kind of understanding would you like to have about Baptism?
 4. Presentation from the Catechism
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Sacrament (definition)

1. An outward sign
2. Instituted by Christ
3. To give grace

Its accomplishments (What it does) **1213**

Basis for whole Christian life/Gateway to life in the Spirit/Door that gives access to the other sacraments/Freed from sin/Reborn as sons of God/Become members of Christ/Incorporate into the Church/Made sharers of the Church's mission

Etymology (Word meanings) **1214**

Greek – Baptizen: to plunge or immerse; symbolizes catechumen's burial into Christ's death from which we rise up by resurrection with him as a "new creature" (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Cf. Rom 6:34; Col 2:12)

Titles

1215 *Washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit* – it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one can enter the kingdom of God (Titus 3:5; Jn 3:5)

1216 *Bath is called enlightenment* because those who receive the instruction are enlightened in their understanding (St. Justin, Apol. 1, 61, 12: PG 6, 421)

Prefigurations (Foreshadowing)

1218 Water overshadowed by the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2)

1219 Noah's Ark, "by it 8 persons were saved through water" (1 Pet 3:20)

1220 Water springing up from the earth symbolizes life and the great flood symbolizes death, representing the mystery of the cross

1221 Crossing the Red Sea foreshadows the liberation wrought by Baptism (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil 42)

1222 Crossing the Jordan River to receive the land promised to Abraham is an image of eternal life

Fulfillment

1223 The Old Covenant foreshadowing is fulfilled in Jesus after his baptism by John (Mt 3:13)

1224 While baptism is for sinners, Jesus was baptized "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mt 3:15) and is a manifestation of his self-emptying (Phil 2:7)

1224 The Spirit hovered over the waters in Genesis and now descends on Christ as a prelude to the new creation

1225 In Jesus' Passover he opened the fountain of baptism to all because he had spoken of the suffering as a baptism (Mk 10:38; cf. Lk 12:50)

1225 The water and blood that flowed from the crucified Jesus' side are types of Baptism and Eucharist, the sacraments of new life (Jn 19:34; 1 Jn 5:6-8)

Practice in the Church

1226 Pentecost – St. Peter declares "Repent and be baptized...in the name of ...Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and you shall receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)

1226 All are welcome: Jews, God-fearing and pagans

1226 Baptism always connected with faith as St. Peter said to the jailer in Philippi, "Believe in...Jesus and you and your household will be saved" (Acts 16:31-33)

1227 Through Baptism, we enter into communion with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12) and we "put on Christ" (Gal 3:27)

1227 Baptism, through the Holy Spirit, is the bath that purifies, justifies and sanctifies (1 Cor 6:11; 12:13)

1228 Augustine says, "The word is brought to the material element and it becomes a sacrament" (St. Augustine, In Jo. ev. 80, 3: PL 35, 1840)

About its practice

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1229 *In Context*: Becoming a Christian is a journey and initiation through several stages: proclaiming the Word and accepting the Gospel: conversion, profession of faith, *Baptism*, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and admission to Eucharistic communion

1230 Initiation has varied greatly and you are going through an ancient process

1231 – 1232 Infant and adult Baptism practiced throughout the two Christian millennia

1239 Baptism has been accomplished by immersion or pouring from ancient times

Celebrating Baptism

1235 The *sign of the cross* marks you with the imprint of Christ

1236 Proclamation of the Word of God reveals faith and elicits the response of faith

1237 Exorcisms are performed signifying that you are being freed from sin and the devil and requires a response renouncing Satan

1238 Prayer of epiclesis consecrates baptismal water so those baptized will be “born of water and the Spirit” (Jn 3:5)

1239 The essential rite of baptizing follows (water, Spirit and triune formula)

1240 The triune formula “in the Name of the Father, Son and Spirit”

1241 Anointing with *sacred chrism* (perfumed oil)

1243 White garment symbolizes purity “put on Christ” (Gal 3:27)

1243 Candle signifies Christ has enlightened the neophyte; we are the “light of the world” (Mt 5:14; Phil 2:15)

Necessity of Baptism

1257 Jesus said baptism necessary for salvation (Jn 3:5)

1257 *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments*

1258 Those who died for the sake of faith are baptized in their own blood

Grace of Baptism

1263 All sins including original sin and the punishment due to sin are forgiven

1265 Makes the neophyte “a new creature,” “a partaker of the Divine nature,” (2 Cor 5:17; 2 Pet 1:4; Gal 4:5-7) an adopted child of God, a member of Christ, a co-heir with Christ (1 Cor 6:15; 12:27; Rom 8:17) and a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19)

1266 Baptized receives sanctifying grace, grace of justification by God enabling

- Faith in, hope in and love of God through the theological virtues
- Power to live and act through the prompting of the Holy Spirit through His gifts
- Power to grow in goodness through the moral virtues

1267 Makes us members of the Body of Christ and “one another” (Eph 4:25)

1268 Gives us a share in the common priesthood of all believers (priests minister to and wait on God and serve one another)

1269 God calls us to submit to one another and to “obey and submit” to the Church’s leaders (Heb 13:17)

1270 Must profess the faith before people and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God (LG 11; cf. LG 17; AG 7; 23)

1272 Baptized are sealed with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of belonging to Christ

1272 Baptism can only be validly given once and cannot be repeated

Sacrament Definition Applied

1. Outward sign – sign of the cross, Word proclaimed, prayer of exorcism, water, prayer of epiclesis, the triune formula, chrism, garment, candle
2. Instituted by Christ – Jn 3:1-21 “no one can enter...without being born of water and spirit”
3. To give grace – all sins and their punishment are forgiven, become a new creation, power to live according to God’s moral law, become a member of the Body of Christ, sharers in the priesthood of believers, power to submit to the Church, power to profess the faith of our fathers, baptized are sealed with a mark of Christ’s ownership

This is my understanding, so then...

5. How do you understand Baptism now? What does it mean that you are or not Baptized?

6. What will you do, think, or what attitude will you have now that you see Baptism in a new way?