

Baptism and Confirmation



What is a sacrament?

- Baltimore Catechism -
A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace
- CCC 1131
The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.

... to give grace

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.
John 3:1

- Adopted children of God
- Removes the stain of original sin and actual sin
- Filled with sanctifying grace
- Members of the church
 - Members of the universal body of Christ
 - Members of our local church
 - Members of our domestic church – our family



... to give grace

- Take on the roles of Christ
- King
 - Care for his people
- Prophet
 - Spread the message of God
- Priest
 - lead in prayer, offer sacrifice,



Outward – Efficacious signs

- Pouring of water
- Lighting candle
- Donning white garment
- Anointing with oil



An efficacious sign



A sign

Pouring of Water

- What are water's effects?
- Cleansing
- Life
- Death



Lighting Candle

- What do we use candles for?
- Enable to see and be seen
- Warmth
- Lighted from Paschal candle



Matthew 5

14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. 16 Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Donning White Garment

- What does white indicate?
- Innocence
- Purity
- European colors



Anointing with Oil

- Commissioning
- Healing
- Struggle
- Christ comes from the Greek word $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\acute{o}\varsigma$ (chrīstós), meaning "anointed one"

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free Luke 4:18

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. Psalm 23



Who can Minister a baptism?

- Normally a priest or deacon
- Any person
 - Uses the right words
 - Pours water over the head



Form - words

- I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- Invalid forms
 - We baptize. It is not the assembled people but Jesus who is baptizing
 - I baptize in the name of the creator, redeemer, and sanctifier

Brisbane, Australia, Nov 26, 2004 / 12:00 am MT ([CNA](#)).- Parishioners baptized at St. Mary's Parish in the Archdiocese of Brisbane in the last decade should contact the church and check whether or not the church actually recognizes their baptism, said Fr. Adrian Farrelly, the archdiocese's tribunal judicial vicar.

After Discovering His Baptism, Ordination Were Invalid, Priest Speaks of God's Grace
National Catholic Register

Matter

- Water running over the forehead
 - minimum
- Oil
 - Oil of Catechumens
 - Sacred Chrism
 - Blessed each year at Chrism Mass



Is baptism necessary?

- Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. *John 3:5*
- 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. *Matthew last two verses*



When should a child be baptized

- Can. 867 §1. Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks; as soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it.
- St. Cyprian of Carthage wrote: he became a bishop in 249
 - As to what pertains to the case of infants: You [Fidus] said that they ought not to be baptized within the second or third day after their birth, that the old law of circumcision must be taken into consideration, and that you did not think that one should be baptized and sanctified within the eighth day after his birth. In our council it seemed to us far otherwise. No one agreed to the course which you thought should be taken. Rather, we all judge that the mercy and grace of God ought to be denied to no man born.



Limbo?

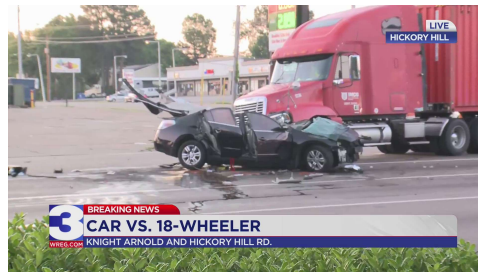
- What happens to a child who dies without baptism?
- Conceived with original sin.
Have committed no actual sin.
- Theological opinion – Limbo a state of natural happiness without the beatific vision



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. All the more urgent is the Church's call not to prevent little children coming to Christ through the gift of holy Baptism.

Baptism of desire

- 1259 For catechumens who die before their Baptism, their explicit desire to receive it, together with repentance for their sins, and charity, assures them the salvation that they were not able to receive through the sacrament.



Can non-baptized people go to heaven

- Baptism is the ordinary means of joining the Body of Christ
- 1260 "Since Christ died for all, and since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal mystery." Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved.

Baptism of Blood

- 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.



Their God is my God

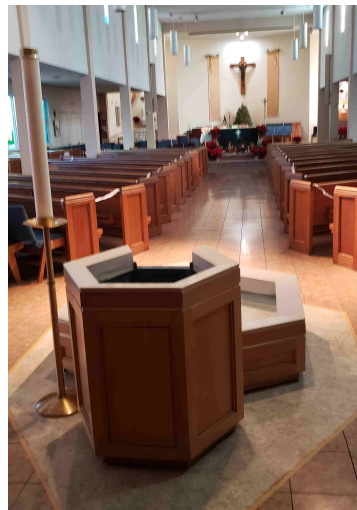
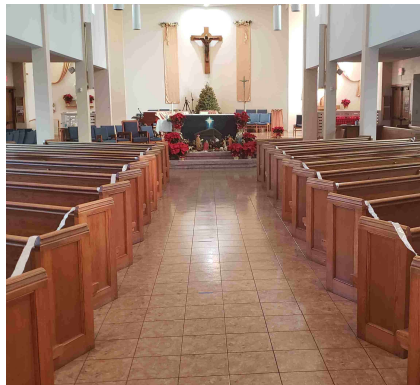
Architecture explains baptism

- Where is the baptismal font here?
- Why is it there?



Architecture explains baptism

- When you come out of the font, where are you? Where are you going?



Confirmation

- **CCC 1285** 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.

Stephen



- When is the feast of Stephen?
- Who was Stephen?

The Stoning of Stephen

- ⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *Acts 7*

... to give grace

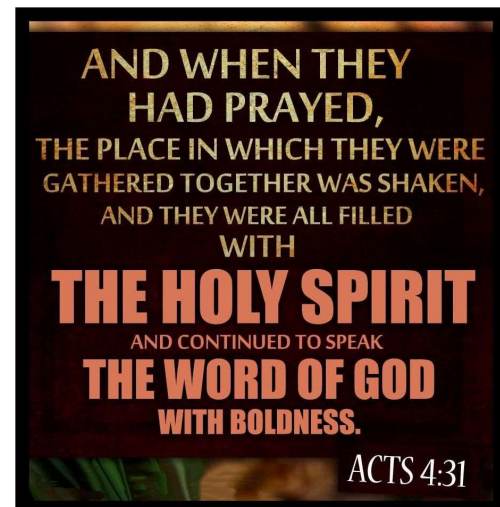
- Full out pouring of the Holy Spirit
- Pentecost

- When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. *Acts 2*



... to give grace

- Apostles told not to speak about Jesus
 - And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. *Acts 4:31*



... to give grace

- Bear witness
 - Words
 - Action
- Prayer
 - Public
 - Contemplation
 - Meditation

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Wisdom** is both the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth (I/I.1.6; I/II.69.3; II/II.8.6; II/II.45.1–5).
- **Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to “see” God (I/I.12.5; I/II.69.2; II/II.8.1–3).
- **Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation (II/II.52.1).
- **Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life (I/II.61.3; II/II.123.2; II/II.139.1).

Gifts of the Holy Spirit



- **Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice (II/II.9.3).
- **Piety** is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word pietas denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety (I/II.68.4; II/II.121.1).
- **Fear of the Lord** is, in this context, “filial” or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to “servile” fear, whereby we fear punishment (I/II.67.4; II/II.19.9).

Christmas presents

- What did you receive for Christmas?
- What did you give for Christmas?



- What do you expect people to do with the gifts you gave them?



Parable of the talents

- His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*



Laying on of hands

- Conversion of Saul
- Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” *Acts 9:17*
- commissioning to do a job
- sending forth to do the work of the church



Anointing with oil

- Sacred Chrism on forehead



What age should a person be confirmed?

- Oakland
 - High school
- Hawaii
 - 7 with first communion
- Eastern rites
 - At birth with baptism
- Different answers to the bishop is the ordinary minister of confirmation
 - Easter vigil – pastor
 - High school –every other year



- Program for High School kids
- 2 year program
- Bi-weekly meetings

How do you know what your gifts are?

- Lector
- Married
- Teacher
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Priest
- Religious
- Choir member
- Contemplative
- Plumber



Discern your gifts

- Prayer – Converse with God
- Ask others – Converse with your sponsor, friends, priest
- Try it – see what produces fruit
- Evaluate it – what feels good or satisfying

[1 Cor 12:4-11](#)

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;
to another, the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;
to another, faith by the same Spirit;
to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit;
to another, mighty deeds;
to another, prophecy;
to another, discernment of spirits;
to another, varieties of tongues;
to another, interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.