



# Baptism

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

# Initiation: *initium* (‘beginning’)



The basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, the door which gives access to all other sacraments. *CCC 1213*

**BAPTISM**

# Baptism: Matter & Form



Sacraments: “the Word (form) is added to the element (matter) and it becomes a sacrament.”

*MATTER:* **water**

*FORM:* **Trinitarian formula**  
(“*In the name of the Father,  
& of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit*”)

# Water + Trinitarian Formula



Institution: John 3:5, Mark 16:16, Mt 28:28.

Minister: ordinarily priest, extraordinarily anybody.

“The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love.” ccc 20



baptein: *Grk*;  
“to dip, steep,  
dye, color”

# The Effects of Baptism



## Positive & Negative Effects:

A tea bag dipped in hot water will remove some water unto itself and infuse the water with tea, causing an alteration.

The same is true with baptism, it removes certain things and alters, also.

# The Effects of Baptism

*Together the positive & negative effects  
of baptism create:*



The  
Sacrament of  
**REGENERATION**  
through  
water & the word.

# Regeneration



Generation

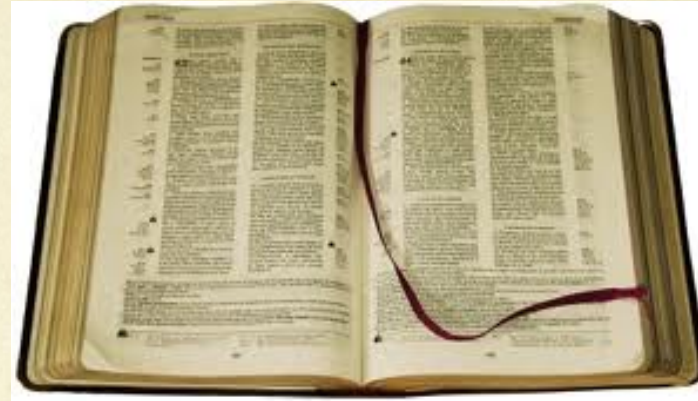
Signifies origin of  
life from conjoined  
living principle

Change from  
nothing into  
something

# Through the WATER + WORD

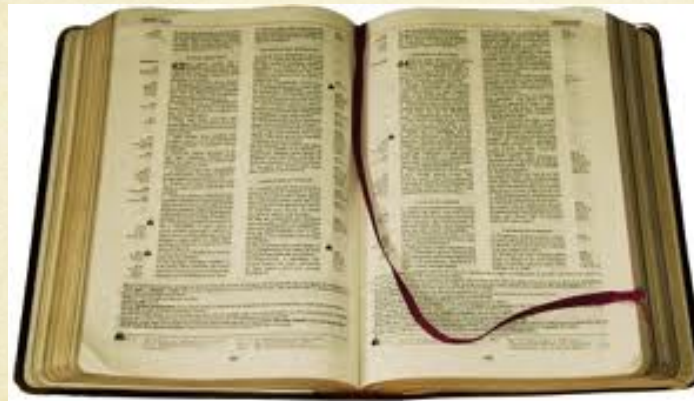


*Didache*: “baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost in **LIVING** water.”



*Hebrews 4:12*: “The word of God is something **ALIVE AND ACTIVE**: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts.

# Regenerate, Re-Genesis



# In the (New) Beginning...



The Spirit that hovered over the waters, is again hovering over the water of the baptismal font; preparing to create again, anew:

“Baptism...makes the [baptized] a ‘new creature,’ and adopted so of God, who has become a ‘partaker of the divine nature,’ member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit.”

# Regenerate, Re-Genesis: Re-Creation

*“At the very dawn of Creation, your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of holiness.” Liturgy of the Easter Vigil*



Before the Fall, humans could participate in the Divine through a special Grace, *not* by their human nature.



After Baptism, humans partake in the Divine nature *through* their human nature.

*“The whole organism of the Christian’s supernatural life has its roots in baptism.”*

# Church Fathers on the New Creature

**St. Athanasius:**

“Become heirs of eternal life  
and adopted sons of the  
Father.”

**St. Gregory of Nyssa:**

“United with Christ by  
spiritual rebirth, puts on  
divine nature.”

**St. John Chrysostom:**

“The baptized has Christ in  
himself, stepping out of the bath  
is clothed with light and fully  
regenerated, enjoys a possession  
of justice and holiness.”

# Baptismal Fonts

**New Creation**



**New Birth**



# The New Post-Baptismal Creature (+)

*Incorporation into the  
Mystical Body of Christ:*

“Let us congratulate ourselves, and give thanks, that we have not only become Christians, but Christ...be astonished, rejoice, we have become Christ.” *St. Augustine*



# Regenerate, Re-Genesis: Re-Deluge

*“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.” Liturgy of the Easter Vigil*



The Flood drowns all of Fallen Creation, destroying sin and all life except for Noah & his family and the animals of the ark.



The waters of baptism justify—they drown all sin, original & personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin.

# Church Fathers on Baptism: Cleansing (−) & Sanctifying (+)

St. Cyril of Alexandria:

“Baptism **cleanses** us from all defilements, **making** us God’s holy temple.”

St. Jerome:

“**Purged** in Christ’s laver and **affects** the creation of an entirely new man.”

Optatus:

“The sinner is plunged in the baptismal water and **washed** of the filth of sin and **restored** to pristine purity.”

St. Augustine:

“Baptism **washes** away all, absolutely all our sins whether of deed, word, or thought, whether sins original or added, whether knowingly or unknowingly contracted.”

# Plunging and Rising

**Dying with Christ**

**Rising with Christ**



# The Justified Post-Baptismal Man (—)



Nothing remains that  
would impede entry into  
the Kingdom of God.

*CCC 1263*

Temporal consequences of  
sin (to be discussed later)  
remain, however: suffering,  
illness, death, and frailties.

# The Justified Post-Baptismal Man (—)



Baptism does not shield us from future sins! (Jovinian heresy debunked in the 4<sup>th</sup> Cent. by St. Jerome)

**Concupiscence:** “the tinder for sin.” The residual habits of our formerly sinful and original sin lives.

# Regenerate, Re-Genesis: Re-Configure

(+)

*“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.” Liturgy of the Easter Vigil*



The parting of the Red Sea leads Moses and the Hebrews out of bondage, thus liberating, and forming the first Hebrew nation.



The waters of baptism liberate Fallen Mankind from all sins and consequences and reconfigure them into One Holy Church. Baptism “continues to be the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church...Baptism constitutes the sacramental bond of unity existing among all who through it are reborn.”

# Crossing Over

## Through the Water



## Renounce & Affirm



# Regenerate, Re-Genesis: Re-Seal (+)

*“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.” Liturgy of the Easter Vigil*



“Now this is my covenant which you are to maintain between myself and you, and your descendants after you: all your males must be circumcised...this shall be a sign of the Covenant.”  
*Gen. 17:10-11*

Baptism creates an indelible spiritual mark (character) which cannot be erased. “All baptized in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 27-28*

# Necessity of Baptism



The Ordinary Means

Extraordinary Means

*By Desire*

*By Blood*

# Baptizing Babies



just do it.

Baptism is the indispensable means of abolition of original sin, or inherited guilt. “Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth.” CCC 1250

# Baptizing Babies



just do it.

“Christian parents will recognize that this practice also accords with their roles as nurturers of the life that God has entrusted to them.” CCC 1251

“The practice of infant baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church.” CCC1252

# Baptizing Babies



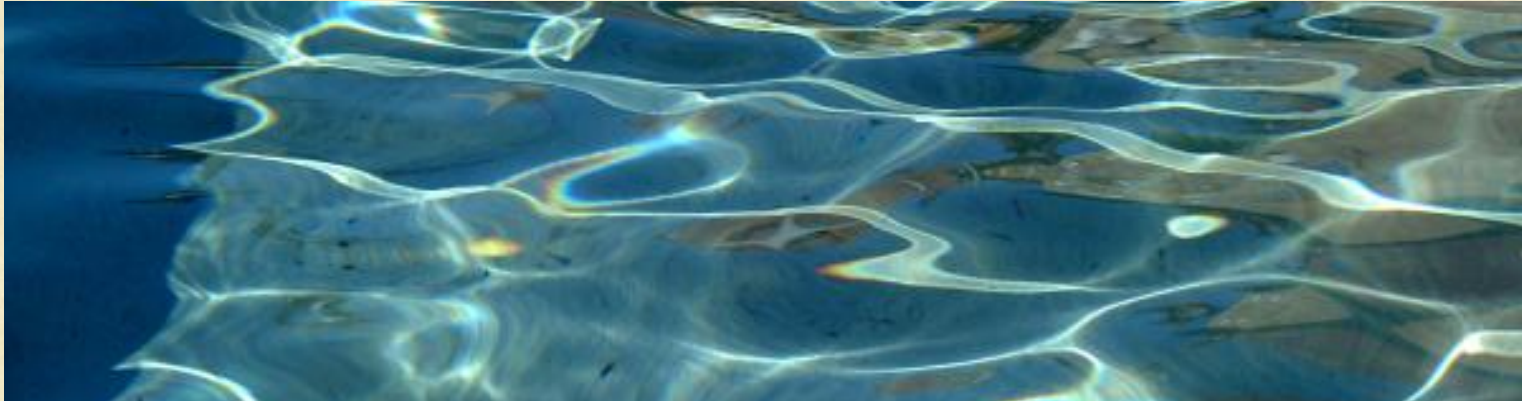
just do it.

“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 the Church’s call...” CCC 1261

# The Element of Water:

*“He wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth.”*

*1 Tim. 2:4*



The Richness of the Symbol throughout Salvation History and  
the Abundance and the Total Preservation through time.

*“Christ’s baptism sanctifies all water which goes undiminished  
into perpetuity.”*