**The Order of Baptism of Children**

*English Translation According to the Second Typical Edition*

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**Post-Vatican II Editions**

- *Ordo Baptismi parvulorum*  
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**Article 10 - Godparents**

- designated by the one to be baptized or by the parents
- mature enough to fulfill this responsibility (age 16)
- initiated with the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- be neither the father nor the mother of the one to be baptized
- be one godparent, male or female; but there may be two, one of each sex
- be a member of the Catholic Church; baptized non-Catholic - witness only
It is the duty of pastors to assist the Bishop in the instruction and Baptism of the adults entrusted to their care, unless the Bishop makes other provisions. It is also their duty, with the assistance of catechists and other qualified laypersons, to prepare and assist the parents and godparents of children to be baptized through appropriate pastoral guidance, and finally to confer the Sacrament on infants.

**Article 13 - Preparation**

**THE ORDER OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN**

Introduction

**THE ORDER OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN**

Preparation

Best Practices

**WHAT ARE WE DOING IN OUR PARISHES TO PREPARE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM?**

**Article 5 - Preparation**

Before the celebration of the Sacrament it is very helpful for the parents, either led by their own faith, or aided by the support of their friends or other members of the community, to prepare themselves for an informed participation in the celebration by suitable means, such as books, articles, and catechisms aimed at the family. Furthermore, the pastor of the parish should take care to meet with them himself or through others, or even to bring together several families, to prepare them for the coming celebration by pastoral instructions and prayer in common.

**THE ORDER OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN (OBC)**

- About
- Introductions
- The Order of Baptism for Several Children
- The Order of Baptism within Mass
**The Order of Baptism for Several Children**

**Dear parents and godparents:**
Your families have experienced great joy at the birth of your children, and the Church shares your happiness. Today this joy has brought you to the Church to give thanks to God for the gift of your children and to celebrate a new birth in the waters of Baptism.

**Outline of the Rite**
- Rite of Receiving the Children
- Sacred Celebration of the Word of God
- Celebration of Baptism
- Explanatory Rites
- Conclusion of the Rite

This community rejoices with you, for today the number of those baptized in Christ will be increased, and we offer you our support in raising your children in the practice of the faith. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us now prepare ourselves to participate in this celebration.

**Rite of Receiving the Children**

**Article 35**
Gather at the door of the Church
Faithful sing a suitable Psalm or hymn, if circumstances allow

**Article 36**
Celebrant greets those present
"He may use these or similar words:"

**listening to God's Word, praying for these children and their families, and renewing our commitment to the Lord and to his people.**
**Rite of Receiving the Children**

**Article 37**
"What name do you give (or: have given) your child?"

"What do you ask of God’s Church for N.?"

The celebrant may use other words in this dialogue.

**Article 38**
Questions may be asked collectively

First question text does not change

Second question may be asked in the plural:
"What do you ask of God’s Church for your children?"

**Rite of Receiving the Children**

**Previous**

You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of raising them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.

Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

**Revised**

In asking for Baptism for your children, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising them in the faith, so that, keeping God’s commandments, they may love the Lord and their neighbors as Christ has taught us.

Do you understand this responsibility?

**Rite of Receiving the Children**

**Previous**

Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?

**Revised**

Are you ready to help the parents of these children in their duty?

**Sacred Celebration of the Word of God**

**Biblical Readings and Homily**

**Prayer of the Faithful/Litany of Saints**

**Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism**

**Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for these children about to receive the grace of Baptism, and for their parents, godparents, and all the baptized.**
Prayer of the Faithful

**Previous**

By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe these children in light, give them the new life of baptism and welcome them into your holy Church.

**Revised**

Give these children new birth in Baptism through the radiant divine mystery of your Death and Resurrection, and join them to your holy Church.

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Make them faithful disciples and witnesses to your Gospel through Baptism and Confirmation:

**Previous**

Through baptism and confirmation, make them your faithful followers and witnesses to your Gospel.

**Revised**

Make them faithful disciples and witnesses to your Gospel through Baptism and Confirmation.

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Lead them through holiness of life to the joys of the heavenly Kingdom:

**Previous**

Lead them by a holy life to the joys of God’s kingdom.

**Revised**

Lead them through holiness of life to the joys of the heavenly Kingdom.

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Keep their families always in your love:

**Previous**

Keep their families always in your love.

**Revised**

Keep their families always in your love.

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Renew the grace of Baptism in each of us:

**Previous**

Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us.

**Revised**

Renew the grace of Baptism in each of us:

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

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Make their parents and godparents a shining example of the faith to these children:

**Previous**

Make the lives of their parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire these children.

**Revised**

Make their parents and godparents a shining example of the faith to these children.
Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism

Previous
Almighty ever-living God, who sent your only Son into the world to drive out from us the power of Satan, the spirit of evil, and bring the human race, rescued from darkness, into the marvelous Kingdom of your light: we humbly beseech you, to free these children from Original Sin, to make them the temple of your glory, and to grant that your Holy Spirit may dwell in them. Through Christ our Lord.

Revised
Almighty ever-living God, who sent your Son into the world to drive out from us the power of Satan, the spirit of evil, and bring the human race, rescued from darkness, into the marvelous Kingdom of your light: we humbly beseech you, to free these children from Original Sin, to make them the temple of your glory, and to grant that your Holy Spirit may dwell in them. Through Christ our Lord.

Celebration of Baptism

Previous
Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, that the Lord God Almighty may bestow new life on these children by water and the Holy Spirit.

Revised
Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, that the Lord God Almighty may bestow new life on these children by water and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism

Previous
We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Savior; may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Revised
We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Savior; may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Celebration of Baptism

Previous
My dear brothers and sisters, you know that God graciously bestows his abundant life through the sacrament of water on those who believe. Let us then raise our minds to him, and with one heart pray that he may be pleased to pour out his grace from this font upon these chosen ones.

Revised
Dear brothers and sisters, God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him. Let us turn to him, and ask him to pour his gift of life from this font on the children he has chosen.

Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism

Previous
In the United States, if, for serious reasons, the celebrant judges it pastorally necessary or desirable, the Anointing before Baptism may be omitted.

Revised
In that case, the celebrant says only once:

Celebration of Baptism

Previous
My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give these children new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Revised
My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give these children new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing of Water and Invocation of God over the Water

Previous
May the strength of Christ the Savior protect you. As a sign of this we anoint you with the oil of salvation in the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Revised
May the strength of Christ the Savior protect you. As a sign of this we anoint you with the oil of salvation in the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Blessing of Water and Invocation of God over the Water

Previous
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Revised
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Blessing of Water and Invocation of God over the Water

Other optional formulas appear in nos. 223-224.

No. 55 reminds us: “During Easter Time, if the baptismal water has been consecrated at the Easter Vigil, so that the Baptism may not lack the element of thanksgiving and petition, the blessing and invocation of God over the water takes place in accordance with the formulas found in nos. 223-224, using the textual variations given at the end of these same formulas.”

Dear parents and godparents: through the Sacrament of Baptism the children you have presented are about to receive from the love of God new life by water and the Holy Spirit.

Dear parents and godparents: You have come here to present these children for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which these children are about to be baptized.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts.

Is it your will, therefore, that N. should receive Baptism in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?
**Anointing After Baptism**

**Previous**

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. 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.

**Revised**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life.

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**Clothing with a White Garment**

**Previous**

(N. and N.), you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourselves 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.

**Revised**

(N. and N.), you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring it unstained into eternal life.

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**Handing On of a Lighted Candle**

**Previous**

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always with children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

**Revised**

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that your children, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as children of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.

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**“Ephphatha”**

**Previous**

In the United States, the “Ephphatha” Rite takes place at the discretion of the celebrant. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of each child with his thumb, saying:

**Revised**

The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

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**Conclusion of the Rite**

Afterwards, unless the Baptism took place in the sanctuary, there is a procession to the altar, in which the lighted candles of the newly baptized are carried.

**Previous**

Meanwhile, it is desirable that a baptismal canticle be sung, e.g.:

*You have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Revised**

Baptized in Christ, you are clothed with Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

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**Lord’s Prayer**

**Previous**

Dear brothers and sisters: these children, reborn through Baptism, are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of God’s Spirit. In holy communion they will share the banquet of Christ’s sacrifice, calling God their Father in the midst of the Church. In their name, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

**Revised**

Dear brothers and sisters: these children have been reborn through Baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. In confirmation they will receive the fullness of God’s Spirit. In holy communion they will share the banquet of Christ’s sacrifice, calling God their Father in the midst of the Church. Now in their name, and in the Spirit of adoption as sons and daughters with which we have all received, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us.
Blessing and Dismissal

Previous
God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary’s child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless the mothers of these children. They now thank God for the gift of their children. May they be one with them in thanking him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revised
The Lord God Almighty, through his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, brings joy to Christian mothers as the hope of eternal life shines forth upon their children. May he graciously bless the mothers of these children, so that, as they now give thanks for the gift of their children, they may always remain united with them in thanksgiving, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessing and Dismissal

Previous
God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the fathers of these children. With their wives they will be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revised
May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth, bless the fathers of these children, so that, together with their wives, they may, by word and example, prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessing and Dismissal

Previous
By God’s gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon all present, who are his sons and daughters. May he make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are present, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revised
May the Lord God Almighty, who by water and the Holy Spirit has given us new birth into eternal life, abundantly bless his faithful here present, that always and everywhere they may be active members of his people; and may he bestow his peace on all who are here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE ORDER OF BAPTISM FOR SEVERAL CHILDREN WITHIN MASS
Introduction

250. To illustrate the paschal character of Baptism, it is recommended that the sacrament be celebrated at the Easter vigil or on a Sunday, when the church commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord. Furthermore, on a Sunday, Baptism may be celebrated also within mass, so that the whole community may be able to take part in the rite and so that the connection between Baptism and the Most Holy Eucharist may stand out more clearly. Nevertheless, this should not happen too often.

The Introductory Rites

258. When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest in the faithful, standing, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, while the priest says:

259. The Greeting and Penitential Act from the Roman Missal are omitted. Instead, the celebrant greets those present, especially the parents and godparents, recalling in a few words the joy with which the parents received their children as a gift from God, who is the source of all life and who now wishes to bestow his own life on them. He may use these or similar words:

Dear parents and godparents:
Your families have experienced great joy at the birth of your children, and the Church shares your happiness. Today this joy has brought you to the Church to give thanks to God for the gift of your children and to celebrate a new birth in the waters of Baptism.

This community rejoices with you, for today the number of those baptized in Christ will be increased, and we offer you our support in raising your children in the practice of the faith. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us now prepare ourselves to participate in this celebration.

Outline of the Rite

- The Introductory Rites
- The Liturgy of the Word
- Celebration of Baptism
- Explanatory Rites
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The Concluding Rites

The Introductory Rites

257. When the people are gathered, they sing the Entrance Chant or a suitable Psalm or hymn, if circumstances allow. Meanwhile, the Priest celebrant, wearing investments with the color proper to the day or the liturgical time, or with the color white or a festive color on days when Ritual Masses are permitted, goes with the ministers to the door of the church, or to that part of the church where the parents and godparents are gathered with those to be baptized.
listening to God’s Word, praying for these children and their families, and renewing our commitment to the Lord and to his people.

The Introductory Rites

Procession to the Altar | Glory to God | Collect Prayer

265. The procession to the altar then takes place in the customary manner. If circumstances permit, the procession takes place with singing (e.g., Psalm 85[84]:7-9ab).

267. Then, when it is prescribed, this hymn is either sung or said:

... then the priest, with hands extended, says the collect prayer. The Collect of the day is used, but on days when ritual masses are permitted, one of the following prayers is said (options are given in the OCB).

The Liturgy of the Word

Universal Prayer

272. The Universal Prayer is taken from those in the Order of Baptism. At the end, however, before the invocation of the Saints, petitions are added for the universal Church and for the needs of the world.

Biblical Readings and Homily

270. The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in the usual manner. At Sunday Masses, the readings are taken from the Mass of the day. During Christmas Time and Ordinary Time, and at weekday Masses, they may also be taken from those which are given in the Lectionary for Mass (nos. 756-760) or in this Order (nos. 44, 186-215).

271. The Creed is not said, because its place is taken by the profession of faith, which is made by the entire community before the Baptism.

273. Afterwards, the celebrant invites those present to invoke the aid of the Saints...

It is good to add the names of other Saints, especially those who are Patron Saint of the children or of the church or of the place...

275. Those to be baptized are anointed one at a time on the breast with the Oil of Catechumens. If there are many children, it is permitted to make use of several ministers.

276. In the United States, if, for serious reasons, the celebrant judges it pastoral necessary or desirable, the Anointing before Baptism may be omitted.
The Liturgy of the Word

277. Then, if the baptistery is outside the church or out of sight of the faithful, there is a procession to it.

But if it is located within view of the congregation, the celebrant, parents, and godparents go there with the children and the others remain in their places.

If the baptistery cannot accommodate all those present, it is permitted to celebrate the baptism in a more suitable place, with the parents and godparents coming forward at the appropriate time.

Meanwhile, if it can be done with dignity, a suitable liturgical song is sung...

Celebration of Baptism

Blessing of Water and Invocation of God over the Water Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith Baptism

285. ...After the baptism of each child, it is appropriate for the people to sing a short acclamation...

Example given: Blessed be God, who chose you in Christ.

Many options found in nos. 225-245.

Explanatory Rites

Handing On of a Lighted Candle “Ephphatha”

289. One member of each family, (e.g., the father or godfather) lights a candle for each child from the Paschal candle.

292. When the celebration of Baptism is concluded, the candles are set aside, all return to their places, and the Mass continues as usual with the Offertory.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, proper formulas from the Ritual Mass “For the Conferral of Baptism” are used.

Explanatory Rites

Anointing after Baptism Clothing with a White Garment

288. ...a white garment is placed on each child; another color is not permitted, unless it is demanded by local custom. It is desirable that the families themselves provide this garment.

The Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

293. For imparting the blessing at the end of Mass, the priest may use one of the formulas which are given for the rite of Baptism.

For mothers, fathers and all who are gathered.

WHAT ARE WAYS YOU ARE GIVING LIFE THE BAPTISMAL LITURGIES IN YOUR PARISH?

WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES FOR CELEBRATING BAPTISM DURING MASS?
FOR YOUR consideration

Music

Sing to the Lord identifies four different categories that appear both in Sunday Mass and in the Order of Baptism of Children:

- Dialogues and Acclamations
- Antiphons and Psalms
- Refrains and Repeated Responses
- Hymns

Music: Antiphons and Psalms

- Between readings
- During processions

Music: Dialogues and Acclamations

- “The Lord be with you/ And with your spirit”
- Prayers with conclusions, “Through Christ our Lord/ Amen”
- Before the Gospel
- After the Profession of Faith
- After each child is baptized

Music: Refrains and Repeated Responses

- Response to Universal Prayers
- The Litany of Saints
- Blessing and Invocation of God over the Baptismal Water, “Blessed be God”

Music: Hymns

- Gathering at the beginning of the rite
- Procession after the reception of the children
- After the homily
- At the conclusion of the rite
- If a large number of children, during the Baptisms themselves
Also Included

- Order of Baptism for One Child
- Order of Baptism for a Large Number of Children
- Order of Baptism to Be Used by Catechists in the Absence of a Priest or Deacon
- Order of Baptism of Children in Danger of Death, or at the Point of Death, to Be Used in the Absence of a Priest or Deacon
- If a large number of children, during the Baptisms themselves
- Order of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church
- Various Texts for Use in the Celebration of Baptism of Children

Resources

- Order of Baptism of Children
  (Catholic Book Publishing, Liturgical Press, Liturgy Training Publications)
- Guide for Celebrating Infant Baptism, second edition
  (Liturgy Training Publications)

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