

Baptism

Advent Wreath: Advent Prayer

Prayer:

Gospel reading for next Sunday

Catchism look up references on Baptism. Read different sections describing the sacrament of Baptism

For a long time, we as Church have primarily focused on the partial initiation of infants, bringing new members into the body of Christ thru infant baptism. This has been the practice for many years.

Vatican 11 changed all of that and brought back the beauty of the sacraments of initiation Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as a unit.

This restoration of the catechumenate program, which was a result of Vatican 11 shares a vision of the power of baptism of adults in a way that had not been seen for many centuries in our church, our church has a renewed vision of the sacrament of baptism.

Here in RCIA, we focus on the catechumenate receiving these sacraments and being able to receive all of the graces to help them on their journey.

This sacrament of Baptism is really the start of new life in Christ. The ancient description of baptism as a time of being “born again” has been rediscovered in the Catholic vocabulary.

Parish communities all participate in this process of Rite of Christian Initiation and see the difference that Baptism and the reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist help those receiving them to become more active in the church community to become disciples of Jesus.

The story of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan as the starting point of his own life of mission and ministry has taken on new meaning in the context of those in our community who similarly begin a new life of service as a result of their reception of Baptism

Baptism is the foundational sacrament of the Christian life. It is the source that follows on our faith journey to eternity.

It is baptism that joins us to Christ and through which we first receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If we do not fully understand this concept we are limiting the role of the Holy Spirit in our Christian lives.

We all need to understand that the three sacraments of initiation Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are all related and bring unity to our lives.

The life of Christ is communicated to us through the sacraments. In baptism we are formed in the likeness of Christ:

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Cor 12:13)

From the book “*The Holy Longing: The Search for Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser.

In Baptism we are made members of the Body of Christ and are called to live out what is essential to our faith growth.

He outlines four nonnegotiable elements of discipleship.

First, take time for prayer to keep our private lives in order.

Second, make the necessary connection between faith and justice.

Third, have a grateful heart.

Fourth, live our faith not just as individuals but as a community called by God.

Break

Different Kinds of Baptisms

Infant Baptism

Importance of Godparents

Baptism by Desire

Baptism by Blood

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus

Help me understand and appreciate more fully how precious is the gift of my baptism.

May I see in your baptism in the Jordan River an image of my own baptism.

May your story be a reminder of how I, too, am loved by God, just as you were named “Beloved” as you came up from the waters.

Spirit of Jesus,

You were poured forth in my heart at baptism.

Help me have a keener sense of your presence in my life, a greater openness to your love,

A life more filled with enthusiasm and courage. Amen