



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH LEEDERVILLE

GUIDE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

The celebrating priest goes to the entrance / foyer of the church where the assembly is waiting with the child. The celebrant greets the gathering. Then he asks the parents:

Celebrant: What name do you give your child?

Parents: (Name).

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's church for (name)?

Parents: Baptism.

The celebrant addresses the parents in these words:

You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents:

Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: We are.

Celebrant: (Name), The Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same.

He signs the child on the forehead, in silence. Then he invites the parents and godparents to do the same.

Psalm 139: 13-16

You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am wonderfully made; awesome are your works, as I know very well.
My body was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, you saw me in the womb.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Reader: A reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians.

The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control. Those who belong to Jesus Christ fight their selfish desires. The Spirit has given us life; We must control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 26)

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reader: The Lord is my light and My help: Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life: before whom shall I shrink?

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reader: There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reader: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

All stand now to greet the gospel.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

(during Lent: Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!)

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

One God, the father of all. (Alleluia).
(during Lent: Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

People were bringing children to him that he touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter into it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hand on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily / Reflection

INTERCESSIONS (The Prayers of the Faithful):

Celebrant: My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on (name) who is to be baptised, on his (her) parents, godparents and on all the baptised.

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe (name) in the light, give him (her) the new life of baptism and welcome him (her) into your holy Church. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make (name) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Lead (name) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Make the lives of (name's) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire him (her). Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The celebrant next invites all present to invoke the saints.

Celebrant:

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Saint John the Baptist,
Saint Joseph,
Saint Peter and Saint Paul,
Saint Francis and Saint Clare
All holy men and women,

All:

Pray for us.
Pray for us.
Pray for us.
Pray for us.
Pray for us.

PRAYER OF EXORCISM

Celebrant: Almighty and ever-loving God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light.

We pray for this child: set him (her) free from original sin, make him (her) a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell with him (her). We ask this through Christ our lord.

All: Amen.

ANOINTING WITH THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS

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

All: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Celebrant: My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

BLESSING AND INVOCATION OF GOD OVER BAPTISMAL WATER

Celebrant: Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tells us the wonders of your unseen power.

In Baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness.

Celebrant: 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.

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.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son.

You created man in your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth to innocence by water and the Spirit.

The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:

Celebrant: We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of Baptism rise also with him to newness of life. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Celebrant: Dear Parents and Godparents: you have come here to present (name) for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which (name) is about to be baptised.

The celebrant asks the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Do you reject sin, as to live in the freedom of God's children?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

BAPTISM

The celebrant invites the parents and godparents to the font and asks them:

Celebrant: Is it your will that (name) should be baptised in the faith of the church, which we have all professed with you?

Parents and Godparents: It is.

Celebrant: (Name), I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Celebrant: (Name), 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 always live as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

All: Amen.

THE WHITE GARMENT

Celebrant: (Name), you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself 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.

All: Amen.

THE LIGHTED CANDLE

The celebrant points to the Easter candle and says:

Celebrant: Receive the light of Christ.

Someone from the family (such as the parent or godparent) lights the child's candle from the Easter candle.

Celebrant: Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. (Name) has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of light. May he (she) keep the flame of faith alive in his (her) heart. When the Lord comes, may he (she) go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

EPHPHETHA

The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:

Celebrant: 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.

All: Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

Celebrant: Dear friends, (Name) has been reborn in baptism. He (she) is now called the child of God, for so indeed he (she) is. In Confirmation he (she) will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion he (she) will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his (her) Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of this child, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord Jesus has given us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: 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 mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him (her) in thanking him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the father of this child. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of the faith. May they also be the best teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: 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 gathered here for this celebration of baptism. May the Lord bless you and be gracious to you. May he look upon you with kindness, and give you his peace.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God