

BAPTISM IN CASES WHERE A PRIEST OR DEACON IS NOT AVAILABLE

The Church has always taught that in cases of urgent need, anyone may baptize another person as long as he or she has the intention of doing what the Church does in Baptism, and pours normal water over the forehead of the person to be baptized while saying the words of Baptism.

In this time of pandemic, many parents are worried they will not be able to have their children baptized in a timely fashion. In situations such as the one we find ourselves in now, the Church allows parents to baptize their children so they may be united to Christ and may become children of God and members of his Church, while providing the rest of the normal Baptism ceremony later. In the new *Order of Baptism of Children* the universal Church makes this option available to parents for their children in a time when there is danger of death.

Please respect the orders given by the civil authorities in this regard. To this end we ***DO NOT RECOMMEND*** that you have some sort of assembly or family party for this ritual. The appropriate time for that celebration is when the rest of the baptismal ceremonies are provided at the parish. It will be quite sufficient for the parents alone to carry out this rite of Baptism.

Simple Rite of Baptism (cf, *The Order of Baptism of Children*, 2020, nn. 158-162)

Prayer Leader: (May be the father or mother):

**O God, fount of all life and love,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
In relieving the anxiety of parents and providing for children in peril,
You reveal your loving design in their rebirth to eternal life.**

**Listen with compassion to our prayer:
Let this child not be held under the sway of sin,
But in mercy receive him (her) into the Kingdom of Your Son.**

**And so, by water and by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
Grant that this child, to whom we give the name (here insert baby's name)
Conformed to the mystery of the Death of your Christ and configured to his Resurrection,
may receive adoption as your son (daughter) and obtain the inheritance of Christ.**

**May he (she) enjoy in the Church your communion
With your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
For ever and ever.**

Both parents: Amen

The parents together then recite the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell, and on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I 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. Amen**

One parent only then baptizes the child by pouring normal water over his/her forehead three times, while saying the following: (The parent who says the words MUST be the one pouring the water and the water must flow over the child's head)

(Child's name), **I baptize you in the name of the Father** (*pour water the first time*);
And of the Son (*pour water the second time*)
And of the Holy Spirit (*pour water the third time*).

The parents may then put a white garment or small white cloth on the child, and say:

**(Child's name), you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ.
May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity.
Bring it unstained into eternal life.**

The parents then recite the "Our Father", which concludes the ceremony.

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We will need:

Child's Name: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ **Name of Person Baptizing:** _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Phone: _____