

Preparing for Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism with water is a sacred and joyful act of God's grace. In baptism, God draws a person out of remoteness from Him and into a close and lasting relationship. This moment is not something we earn or achieve; it is a gift God gives, grounded in His love and promise.

This guide is offered to help you prepare for Holy Baptism and/or to reflect more deeply afterward.

Take time to read, pray, and consider the questions below.

WHAT IS HOLY BAPTISM?

Holy Baptism is the first and fundamental act of grace of the triune God. Through it, God acts and establishes a new and lasting relationship with us:

- What do you understand Holy Baptism to be?
- What does it mean to you that God is the one who acts in baptism?

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

Through Holy Baptism, original sin is washed away. Although our inclination to sin remains, God promises His help, blessing, and forgiveness as we grow in faith.

- What does forgiveness mean to you?
- How does knowing God remains with you, even in weakness, give you comfort?

DEATH OF THE OLD LIFE AND BEGINNING OF A NEW CREATION

Baptism is both a death and a beginning. The old life is left behind, and a new life in Christ begins. We are made into a new creation.

- What do you hope God will renew in your life?
- How do you imagine growing through this new beginning?

A CHANGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In Holy Baptism, we renounce Satan and surrender ourselves to God. Baptism is a public confession of faith in the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ.

- What does it mean to belong to Jesus Christ?
- How does faith shape everyday life?

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:19

Titus 3:5

(NAC Catechism 8.1)

Acts 2:38

Romans 6:3–4

(NAC Catechism 8.1.4)

Romans 6:4

2 Corinthians 5:17

Colossians 2:12

(NAC Catechism 8.1.6)

Romans 10:9

Galatians 2:20

(NAC Catechism 8.1.7)

BELONGING TO THE CHURCH

Through baptism, we become part of the church of Christ; a fellowship of believers who live and grow in faith together.

- What does belonging to the Church mean to you?
- How can fellowship strengthen your faith?

FOR ADULTS BEING BAPTIZED

Holy Baptism begins a lifelong journey of discipleship, shaped by God's grace.

- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- Are you ready to follow Him and live your faith openly?

FOR PARENTS OF A CHILD BEING BAPTIZED

In baptizing your child, you recognize them as a gift from God and accept responsibility for their spiritual upbringing.

- How will you help your child grow in faith?
- How can you model a life centered on Christ?

FINAL REFLECTION

Holy Baptism is a joyful yet serious moment in which God speaks His promise over a life.

- Do you feel ready for this step?
- What questions or thoughts would you like to discuss?

1 Corinthians 12:13

Ephesians 4:4–6

Acts 2:41–42

(NAC Catechism 8.1.3)

Matthew 16:24

John 8:31

(NAC Catechism 8.1.8)

Psalms 127:3

Proverbs 22:6

Mark 10:13–16

Deuteronomy 6:4–7

(NAC Catechism 8.1.9)

Isaiah 43:1

2 Timothy 1:9

(NAC Catechism 8.1)