

Confirmation Journal Activity

January 25, 2023

Topic: Sacraments of Initiation-Baptism

Learning Work:

- Read “Why We Need Baptism” (included below)
- Talk to your parents about your Baptism

Reflection Questions:

- Why is Baptism needed for Salvation?
- Ask your parents about your Baptism. Have them explain the event to you. When and where was it? Who are your godparents and why were they chosen? Are there pictures from that day?

WHY WE NEED BAPTISM

Baptism is linked to Christ's Death and Resurrection and grants us new life in the Holy Spirit.

Christ remade the practice of baptism as a Sacrament that marks a person indelibly, which means for all eternity. Baptism makes it possible for him or her to be in communion with God in heaven. Baptism is never simply a symbolic action. It is always a life-changing and necessary action of God.

Christ taught that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for salvation. During Christ's public ministry, Nicodemus, a Pharisee, visited him in secret to learn more about his message. Christ told him that a person must be "born anew" in order to "see the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:3). When a perplexed Nicodemus asked how an old man could be born again, Christ explained that the rebirth of which he spoke was not physical. "Unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:1-5).

Before Christ ascended into heaven, he instructed his Apostles to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). He taught them also about why we need Baptism. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk 16:16).

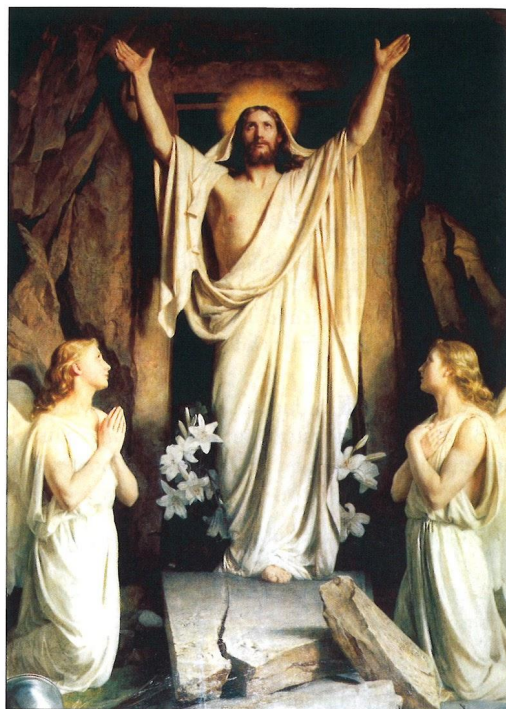
Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. (CCC 1257)

Baptism is a sharing in the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The New Testament reveals that Baptism is a share in the Death of Christ as we die to sin in the baptismal waters:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death. (Rom 6:3-4)

Just as Baptism brings one into the Death of Christ, so also does it allow a person to share in the Resurrection of Christ.

If we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Rom 6:5)



The Resurrection by Bloch.

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Through Baptism, the salvation that Christ won through his Death and Resurrection are *applied* to us. We are not simply observers of the events of the Paschal Mystery, but through Baptism, we become part of them as we unite ourselves to Christ.

At Baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles at Pentecost, they were filled with strength and courage. They left the Upper Room and went into the streets of Jerusalem to preach the Gospel of Christ. Many of the people were moved by St. Peter's preaching and asked what they should do. He said:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Confirmation completes this process by giving us the gifts of the Holy Spirit so we can faithfully live as disciples of Christ.