

The Liturgy of Initiation
Presentation of the Candidates

The Bishop asks those to be baptised

Do you wish to be baptized? **I do.**

The Bishop asks those to be confirmed

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit? **I have.**

The Bishop asks all the candidates

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ? **I am.**

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The Bishop addresses all the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism with Oil of Catechumens, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The Bishop and candidates for baptism, together with candidates for confirmation, gather at the baptismal font.

The Bishop stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from
the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those
who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be
cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Baptism

The Bishop addresses the candidate for baptism saying:

N is this your faith?

This is my faith.

N I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the Bishop may sprinkle them.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Confirmation

The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says

Our help is in the name of the Lord

who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord

now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,

you have given these your servants new birth

in baptism by water and the Spirit,

and have forgiven them all their sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;

the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;

and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

Amen.

The Bishop addresses each candidate in these words,

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He lays his hand on the head of each candidate, saying,

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

The candidate answers Amen.

He anoints each candidate with the Oil of the Holy Chrism,

N, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The candidate answers Amen.

Peace be with you.

The candidate answers And also with you.

The Bishop prays for all those on whom he has laid hands.

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

The Mass continues