

Introductory elements

What is a sacrament?

Sacrament comes from the Latin "sacramentum", which literally means "sacra": sacred, "mentum", medium and instrument.

That is to say that literally sacrament we can translate it as "way or means to be holy / sacred". The word "sacramentum", in turn, was the translation of the Greek "mysterium". They mean what they produce and produce what they mean.

CCC # 1131 *The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.*

CCC # 1123 *"The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it. That is why they are called 'sacraments of faith.'*⁴⁴

What is a sign?

It comes from the Latin signum. It is the means by which something else is represented and can help to define it (example: smoke is a sign of fire, the cross is a sign of Christ's death for our sins, dark clouds are a sign of rain, words or gestures are signs of the thoughts we have and we want to express and communicate to others). As well as the signs you know, the sacraments are also signs that

remind us of God's love for humanity. In all the sacraments of the Church we receive sacramental grace.

What is Sacramental grace?

The sacramental grace is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament. This grace helps the faithful on their path of holiness, and also the Church in its growth of charity and witness.

CCC # 1996 ... *Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God (Jn 1, 12-18), adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.*⁴⁶

CCC # 1997 *Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life: by Baptism the Christian participates in the grace of Christ, the Head of his Body. As an "adopted son" he can henceforth call God "Father," in union with the only Son. He receives the life of the Spirit who breathes charity into him and who forms the Church.*

How many and what are the sacraments of the Church?

CCC #1113 *the whole liturgical life of the Church revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments.*²⁹ *there are seven sacraments in the Church: Baptism, Confirmation or Chrismation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.*³⁰

The Church organizes them in the following way: **a) SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:** They are the first three sacraments in which the person becomes part of the Catholic Church. Through these sacraments the new Christian is introduced

into the Paschal Mystery of Christ, that is, in his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

- ✓ BAPTISM
- ✓ COMMUNION
- ✓ CONFIRMATION

b) SACRAMENTS OF HEALING: It is about those sacraments through which the relief and restoration of our ruptures with God and with our brothers is offered. In addition, we find strength and hope to continue trusting in the Lord.

- ✓ CONFESSION
- ✓ ANOINTING OF THE SICK

c) SACRAMENTS OF MISSION OR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: They are those who are ordained to the salvation of others. They certainly contribute to their own salvation, but this they do through the service they render to others, confer a particular mission in the Church and serve the edification of the People of God.

- ✓ HOLY ORDERS
- ✓ MATRIMONY

What is the sacrament of baptism? **CCC # 1213** *Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua),⁴ and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission...*

The name of this sacrament **CCC # 1214** *This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek baptizein) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into*

*Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."*⁶

WHAT IS ITS IMPORTANCE?

CCC#1216 *"This bath is called enlightenment, because those who receive this [catechetical] instruction are enlightened in their understanding . . ." ⁸ Having received in Baptism the Word, "the true light that enlightens every man," the person baptized has been "enlightened," he becomes a "son of light," indeed, he becomes "light" himself: ⁹ Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship.*¹⁰

Erase the original sin: (and if the one who is baptized is an adult, all sins are erased) the soul of the creature is totally cleansed of all sin. It is one of the meanings of the water that spills on his head: wash the soul of every stain, leave it clean and resplendent by the force of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit: **CCC # 1215** *this sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water*

and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God."⁷

They begin to be part of the Church, which is the People of God, which all the baptized are part of, the souls of Purgatory and those who are already in Heaven. This Church is directed on earth by the Pope and by the bishops, and it becomes concrete in the parishes, in which the priests are representatives of Christ the Shepherd, therefore wherever they are in the world they have the right to the Church assists you in your spiritual life.

They are marked with an indelible spiritual seal: Baptism cannot be repeated, because it marks people in the depths of their hearts. The "seal" indicates their belonging to Jesus until death, and for all eternity.

Begin to be heirs of Heaven: the children inherit the property of their parents. The new Life of God's Children which begins in the Baptism never ends, because if we are good Christians, we have the assurance that the Lord will give us Heaven as an inheritance, because children inherit the property of their parents.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

In the Old Testament

The water throughout the Sacred Scriptures is shaping the rite of Baptism in its meaning and significance:

SENSE OF CREATION: (Gn 1, 2 "The Spirit of God moved through the water") Water is at the moment of creation: with it a new world is inaugurated. In the water the

Spirit moves, reflecting the action of the Spirit of God in the baptismal waters.

SENSE OF PURIFICATION: (Gn. 6, 12 - 13 " When God saw how corrupt the earth had become, since all mortals led depraved lives on earth, he said to Noah: "I have decided to put an end to all mortals on earth; the earth is full of lawlessness because of them. So I will destroy them and all life on earth.") The flood of forty days and forty nights has to do with God's decision to purify humanity. This sign in which the water is seen anticipates the purifying character of the baptismal waters, in which the believer is cleansed of all his sins.

SENSE OF RELEASE: (Ex 14, 22 "The Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.") The water that opens wide and for which the Israelites are freed from their enemies, says of the liberation of the believers in the baptismal water.

SENSE OF LIFE: (Num. 20, 8-12 "Take the staff and assemble the community, you and your brother Aaron, and in their presence order the rock to yield its waters. From the rock you shall bring forth water for the community and their livestock to drink.") The water in the desert calms the thirst of the Israelites and gives them back their lives. Thus, the waters of baptism give life to believers.

In the New Testament

BAPTISM OF JESUS: (Mk 1, 9 " It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.")

➤ The baptism of John demands the conversion of sins and is a sign of preparation to wait for the Messiah. Jesus

is baptized by John not because he has sinned, but to show solidarity with the fallen brother and restore him in all his dignity. (Mk 1, 10 " On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. ⁶ ")

- In the baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and we are also clothed with his strength and strength to fight evil. (Mc 1, 11 "And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.")
- In the baptism the believer is recognized by God as his son.
- A close relationship is established between man and God; now it is a family relationship of Father and Son.
- In the baptism God certifies his love towards us and we, on our part, commit our life with God.

BAPTISM IS A REQUIREMENT: (Jn 3, 5... "Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

BAPTISM IS A MANDATE: (Mt 28, 19 "Go, therefore, ¹² and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM NECESSARY FOR SALVATION: (Mk 16, 16 " Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. ") Faith is before the sacrament. Those who have faith are baptized. In the case of the baptism of children, it is done in the faith of their parents and godparents.



**OUR LADY
OF FATIMA**
CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRE BAPTISMAL COURSE (I PART)