

ENRICHMENT: SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Entrance into the Church

The Church is the family of God. We become members of the Church through Baptism. Jesus taught the Church how to celebrate Baptism. It is important to understand what happens at Baptism. There are certain requirements for a valid Baptism.

- First, Baptism requires *water*.
 - **Can you think of ways we use water?**
(Answers may include for washing; growing trees, plants, and vegetables; and drinking so we can live.) God uses water to wash away Original Sin and all other sins.
- Second, Baptism requires certain words.
 - **What are the words we say when we make the Sign of the Cross?** We call on the names of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus told us to baptize all people “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).
 - So at every Baptism, as the person being baptized is immersed in water three times or water is poured over his head three times, these words are said: “*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*”
- It is also important to know that *in the case of necessity*, any person can baptize someone else.
 - In special situations, we do not need to be baptized by a priest or deacon. This does not mean we can baptize someone else whenever we want to. There must be a very special need, such as in the case of an emergency. For example, let’s say an unbaptized person is dying. There is no time to find a priest or deacon. In this situation, we can baptize the person.
 - We still must follow how Jesus taught us to baptize. We must pour water on the head of the person three times or immerse him in water three times. As we do this, we must say these exact words: “*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*”



Why was your Baptism an important moment in your life? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.