

Chapter 10: God Makes Us New Creations

Baptism makes us new creations in Christ.

Chapter Summary

Jesus tells us that we must be born anew through water and the Spirit. Baptism is necessary for salvation. The ordinary way people receive the graces of Baptism is through the Sacrament of Baptism. But people can also receive these graces through Baptism of blood or the desire for Baptism. Through Baptism, we receive forgiveness of sins and new life in the Holy Spirit. We enter into the state of grace. We receive a white garment, which symbolizes that we are new creations as God's children. We are also given a candle, which symbolizes the light of Christ. We must keep the flame of faith alive in us. Baptism opens the door for the rest of the sacraments, which continue to nourish and deepen our faith.

Keeping the Faith

"In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him (her) in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he (she) may love the Lord and his (her) neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?"³

At a child's Baptism, the parents acknowledge before God and the Church the responsibility to raise their child in the faith. Every child eventually chooses the faith for himself. Nonetheless, it is essential for parents to instill God's teachings in the child when he is young. Parents do this through their witness of charity, justice, and obedience to God.



Here are some helpful tips for parents who feel overwhelmed by this task:

- Reach out for advice from your priests, parish staff, and other families.
- Read the lives of the saints, particularly those who were parents.
- Go to Reconciliation and receive Holy Communion often.
- Raise your children to obey God's commandments, particularly keeping the Lord's Day holy by attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
- Model forgiveness for your children to see.
- Read the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. God's Word has wisdom for both parents and children.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.