

*Church of the Guardian Angels  
215 West Second Street  
Chaska, Minnesota 55318*

**THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

*If you have any questions, feel free to call Father Tony VanderLoop at 952-679-9415.*

**Baptisms will take place on scheduled Sundays always at 11:30 AM.**

**Please plan to attend the 10:00 Sunday Mass and be at the church by 11:00 AM.**

**Bring your child dressed in a white garment for baptism that symbolizes the child's renewal in Christ.**

**When you arrive, please check in at the information table at the back of Church. Father, Deacon or a member of the Baptism Team will greet you and assist you with any needs or questions prior to the baptism.**

**RECEPTION OF CHILDREN**

The Baptismal Liturgy will begin promptly at 11:30 AM with the reception of the children.

1. Parents, Godparents, Baby, and Special Person will be lined up at the back of the Baptismal Font. Family members may gather around in front of the font.
2. The priest or deacon will ask the parents the following questions:
  - *What name have you given your child? (You say their first and middle name.)*
  - *What do you ask of God's church? (Answer: **Baptism**. Alternative answers are: **faith, eternal life, the grace of Christ, or entrance into the Church**)*
  - *The priest or deacon will say: **You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our Neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking? (A: I do.)***
3. The Godparents will then be asked: *Are you ready to help these parents in their Duty as Christian Mothers and Fathers? (We are.)*
4. The priest or deacon continues: *My dear child, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name, I claim you for Christ our Savior by the sign of the Cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead and invite your parents and godparents to do the same. **After the priest or deacon does so, you trace the cross on your child's forehead.***

**PROCESSION TO THE FRONT OF CHURCH**

All parents and godparents will follow the priest or deacon into the church. Please sit in the first few pews.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Brief Homily

## **INTERCESSIONS, LITANY OF THE SAINTS, and PRE-BAPTISMAL ANOINTING**

After the homily, the priest or deacon invites the parents and godparents to come forward with their child. Then, the lector will lead the people in the Prayers of the Faithful. We will ask God to make our children faithful followers of Christ, through the waters of baptism, by the example and leadership of the parents and godparents, and through the support of the Christian community. After each prayer is introduced, we pray it by saying, “**Lord, hear our prayer.**”

After the prayers of the faithful, the Litany of the Saints begins. We call upon the saints in heaven to pray for us. The sung response after each saint is named is “**Pray for us.**”

Then follows the Prayer of Exorcism as a conclusion to our prayers and the Anointing before Baptism. The priest or deacon will lead in the prayer and anoint each child on the chest with the Oil of Catechumens. This prayer of exorcism is a prayer asking God to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil and send the Holy Spirit to dwell in each child. It is a final prayer for the child before moving to the font. The Oil of Catechumens is blessed olive oil. Early Christians used oil when they bathed the way that we use soap. It was valued for its cleansing and protective qualities. Just as your attentive care and protection create an environment in which your child can grow, the Church offers Christ’s care and protection to enable all of us to grow in our relationship with God.

## **CHANGING AND PROCESSION TO THE FONT**

After the anointing the procession to the font begins. When there is music, each child is called by name to the font by the sung voice of the cantor. Parents and godparents with the child to be baptized stand at the left side of the font. Meanwhile, other family members may gather at the right side of the font and at the front of the font.

## **BLESSING OF THE WATER**

The priest blesses the water in the font, calling to mind the role of water in the history of God’s work in the world: how the Spirit of God hovered over the primeval waters breathing life into them, how the great flood brought cleansing and a second birth to creation; how the chosen people escaped slavery by passing through the waters of the Red Sea; and how Jesus himself was baptized in the water of the Jordan River.

## **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Just as babies and children need constant care to grow physically and emotionally, their spiritual growth will require constant care also. God has called parents to share in His creative power in bringing new life into the world. In doing so, it is the will of God that through the child’s parents and godparents, they will know always of His love for them. The attitudes that parents communicate about faith will in large measure shape their attitudes. Helping them grow in faith cannot be confined to one day, a week or even to a certain part of every day. It is a constant responsibility. The celebrant speaks to the parents and godparents in these words:

*You have come here to present these children for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which these children are about to be baptized.*

Celebrant: *Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: *Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: *Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: *Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Celebrant: *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

The celebrant and the congregation give their assent to this profession of faith:

Celebrant: *This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.* All: **Amen.**

## **THE BAPTISM**

The celebrant invites each father and mother with their child and the godparents to the font and questions the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: *Is it your will that N. should be baptized in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?*

Parents and Godparents: **It is.**

He baptizes the child, saying:

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

When there is music, a brief acclamation praising God for what has just happened is sung.

## **ANOINTING WITH CHRISM and CLOTHING WITH WHITE GARMENT**

Then the celebrant leads in a prayer and anoints each child on the crown of the head with sacred chrism. This is once again olive oil, but mixed with perfume. This anointing expresses the joy of union with Christ and the special calling each of us receives at baptism. We are called to share in his work as priest, prophet and king. We belong to God's household as those who have a royal inheritance in the kingdom and as those who speak and act according to it in order that others may see God's goodness.

The response to the prayer is "**Amen.**"

After the anointing, the celebrant leads in a prayer recognizing the dignity and call in wearing the white garment. In the ancient Church, baptism often involved being immersed in a pool. The baptized would disrobe and be dressed in a white gown after the baptism. The old clothes came to symbolize the sinful life one was leaving behind while the baptismal garment was an expression of new life in Christ. Colossians 3:9-10 says, "You have put off the old self with its old habits and have put on the new self".

The response to the prayer is "**Amen.**"

### **LIGHTING OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE and EPHPHETHA RITE**

Then the priest or deacon lowers the Easter Candle and says, "Receive the light of Christ." The godfather receives a baptismal candle and lights it from the Easter candle. The priest or deacon explains that the child has received the light of Christ and it is meant to be kept burning brightly, alive in their hearts as children of this light.

Then the priest or deacon will lead in a prayer as he gently touches the ears and the mouth of the child. Jesus once said to a deaf man who had a speech impediment, "Ephphetha!" which means, "Be opened!" (Mark 7:31-37). It is the will of God that we hear and speak God's holy word as Christians wherever we go. The response to the prayer is "**Amen.**"

### **PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR**

Finally, the priest or deacon leads the parents and godparents with child to the altar. Everyone follows thereafter. If there is room, parents and godparents with child surround the altar forming an inner circle. Other family members gather in front on the main floor down from the steps surrounding the altar.

If there is not sufficient room, parents and godparents with child stand across the front of the church facing to the back of the church.

We call to mind that the children, reborn in baptism will soon receive their first holy communion and confirmation. They will share in the banquet of Christ's sacrifice and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The celebrant will lead everyone in the Lord's prayer. Then he will first bless the mothers who hold their children in their arms. Then he will bless the fathers of the children. Then he will bless and dismiss everyone.

The Certificate of Baptism will be mailed out to you. Please enter the correct information on the Sacramental Record, given to you prior to the Baptismal Liturgy.