

IMMERSED

The Sacrament of Baptism

LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

Goal for the Life Night

The goal for this night is to celebrate the new life given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism. This night will help the teens understand what happens during Baptism and its effects as well as welcome a newly baptized member of the Church into their community.

Life Night at a Glance

What a better way to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism than to celebrate the sacrament! This Life Night will allow the teens to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism as it is being celebrated. The night begins in the church or chapel with a time of praise and worship. The youth minister will introduce the family and give a brief explanation on why Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments. The parents of the child will give a brief witness as to why they want to have their child baptized. Their witness will lead directly into the Baptism. As the sacrament is being celebrated, the priest or deacon should explain the elements, words and movements of the sacrament to the teens. The night will end with a celebration of the newest member of the Church.

If there is not a Baptism that the teens can take part in, we have created an alternative Life Night on Baptism. This Life Night outline can be found on pages 26-35.

Preparation

This night will take a lot of advanced planning and preparation, but is absolutely worth it. The first thing is to find a couple who would like to share their child's Baptism with the Life Teen community. If there is not an active couple already in the community, contact the parish's sacramental preparation coordinator. All couples have to go through classes before their child can be baptized. Once the couple is chosen, work on details for the sacrament and night with the couple and the priest or deacon that will baptize their child. Give the priest or deacon the teaching handout in advance so that he can be prepared to explain the different elements and prayers. Try and get as many teens involved as possible. Teens can be involved in the readings or the prayers of the faithful. Create a handout to give to the teens about the different parts of Baptism. The sheet should include their responses so each teen can fully participate in the sacrament. It is important help the teens feel like an active and necessary part of the night.

Environment

The main environment for this night is wherever Baptisms are held—the parish sanctuary or chapel. The regular meeting space should be set up for a reception after the Baptism. Have flowers and balloons decorating tables where everyone can sit. Have a table for food, drinks and desserts set up as well. Create a big welcome sign for the newly baptized child.

GATHER *20 Minutes*

Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

The youth minister gathers the group together and welcomes everyone to the Life Night. He/she introduces any teens at Life Night for the first time.

Why Baptism? (10 min)

The youth minister should begin by asking if anyone remembers his or her Baptism and to share his or her experience.

This night is a very unique and special night. The first of the seven Sacraments is Baptism. Many of us don't remember our Baptism because we were infants. Baptism is our first initiation into God's family as sons and daughters. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), we are born in a state of Original Sin. Because of this sin, we stand outside God's Kingdom. Through our Baptism, our state of Original Sin is washed away and we are reborn as sons and daughters of God and united with Him by grace. We are welcomed into the Church as God's children. Tonight we have the privilege to be a part of (NAME)'s baptism. We are not just passive observers in this sacrament. We as members of the Church have an active role in the Baptism and (NAME)'s life. As his/her new community, it is our responsibility to help (NAME)'s parents raise (NAME) in the faith. As we move through the celebration of the sacrament we will look at each element and movement and explain why the Church uses these elements and recites these specific prayers.

Family Witness (5 min)

Before the Baptism begins, bring up the child's parents and godparents to give a short witness as to why they have decided to baptize their child and why specifically they chose to allow the teens to be a part of the Baptism.

CATECHISM REFERENCES:

683
 # 1213-1284
 # 931
 # 1988
 # 2013

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 3:1-12	Luke 3:21-22
Matthew 3:13-17	John 1:22-34
Matthew 29:19	John 3:1-15
Mark 1:9-11	Acts 2:37-41

PROCLAIM *40 Minutes***Teaching/Celebration of the Sacrament**

(40 min)

The majority of this night happens in the celebration of the sacrament. It is important to help the teens feel like an active and necessary part of the night. It will be easy for the teens to zone out and not pay attention. Engage them in the teaching and sacrament by asking questions and challenging them to fully participate in the responses. Be sure to have the Core spread out among the teens to help them participate and respect the family by not talking.

Included are a few teaching points for the priest or deacon to make while explaining each part of the sacrament. Be sure to take as much time as possible to explain and answer any questions the teens may have.

The explanation of the sacrament can be found on pages 24-25.

BREAK/SEND *15 Minutes***New Life Celebration!** (15 min)

It is time to welcome the newest member into the Church! What better way than a new life celebration? Have plenty of food, drinks and desserts available. Have a large cake decorated from a local grocery store and have the Life Teen community present the family with a gift—a crucifix or rosary or Bible. Have two large white foam boards available where the teens and Core can write messages of thanksgiving to the family and child. Allow time for the teens and Core to socialize and celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with the family. Close the night with prayer and the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

As the teens are leaving, give them each a small bottle of Holy Water and attach a copy of their baptismal vows. Encourage them to read the vows once a week and use the Holy Water to make the sign of the cross as a reminder of their Baptism.

Community Connection

- Have a few parents coordinate the environment and food for the New Life Celebration. Have a teen who is skilled with video and video editing to film the baptism and create a video for the family and for the Life Teen program.

Making it Work

- Use the alternative Life Night on pages 26-35 if there is not a Baptism for the teens to witness.
- If the family or celebrant does not want to break up the flow of the sacrament by explaining the words, signs and symbols, he can have a short teaching about the sacrament immediately before the Baptism takes place. Allow the teens to ask questions as well.

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EXPLANATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BAPTISM TEACHING POINTS

(to be used by the priest or deacon who performs the Baptism)

Reception of the Child

1. Parents and godparents

- It is first the role of parents is to bring their child before God and the community and express their desire for their son or daughter to be brought into the faith. Parents are the first teachers of the faith and their responsibility and duty by their marriage vows to raise their children in the faith.
- A Godparent's role is to help the parents raise the child in the faith. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing.

2. Sign of the Cross

- The parents and godparents express the outward sign of desiring the child to be baptized into the faith by marking him or her with the sign of the cross on their forehead. The sign of the cross marks the child with the grace of redemption and the salvation won for all by Christ on the cross.

Liturgy of the Word

1. Readings and Homily

- The readings and homily are directed toward the sacrament and effects of Baptism. The homily is given to draw the parents, godparents and community into their roles in the child's Baptism.

Celebration of the Sacrament

1. Holy Water

- All the sacraments use elements that communicate physically what is happening spiritually. For example, the natural use of water is to give life and cleanse. In the Sacrament of Baptism the holy water is used to both wash us and give us new life. The water is blessed

by calling down of the Holy Spirit and it is through the power of the Spirit that the water washes us clean from the stain of Original Sin and bring us into the newness of life reborn as children of God.

2. Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

- Before the child can be baptized the parents and godparents are literally interrogated about what they believe. They must reject Satan and sin and profess belief in the Catholic faith. The community also participates in this renunciation and profession.

3. "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit"

- We are baptized under the Holy Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4. Immersion/Pouring

- The normal custom is to fully immerse the child being baptized in the waters of baptism. This immersion symbolizes the death to sin (going into water) and rising or being reborn (coming out of the water) with Christ in the newness of life. When the newly baptized comes out of the water, he or she is a living saint, free from the stain of sin, and a newly adopted son or daughter of God.

5. Indelible Mark/Seal

- When the newly baptized is brought out of the waters he or she has an indelible or permanent mark on his or her soul. This mark or seal marks the person for Christ for eternity. The mark or seal does not go away. It is from this seal that we receive our identity—we are God's forever.

6. Anointing with Chrism

- The child is anointed priest, prophet and king with the sacred Chrism oil. Everyone who is baptized is part of the universal priesthood of Christ. This priesthood is different than vocational or sacramental priesthood. Every Christian is called to offer sacrifice, a gift of self, for the service of others. The prophetic office calls every Christian to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

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EXPLANATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Every Christian must be a living witness to God's love. The kingly office calls every baptized Christian to live as adopted sons and daughters of God.

7. Garment

- After the anointing with Chrism, a white baptismal garment is worn as an outward sign of becoming a new creation in Baptism. The garment also signifies the "putting on Christ" and the Christian dignity. The child, along with the parents, and godparents are entrusted with the task to bring the garment (Christian dignity) unstained (free from sin) to heaven.

8. Candle

- The baptismal candle is lit from the Easter candle. The Easter candle represents the Light of Christ in the darkness of the world—"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1-5). This flame is a sign of Christ's enlightenment of faith in the heart of the child. The parents and godparents are entrusted with the task of keeping the flame burning in the hearts of their child and godchild.

9. Ephphetha (Prayers over ears and mouth)

- The ears and mouth are anointed with sacred Chrism so to hear God's Word always and proclaim the faith.

10. Lord's Prayer

- As newly baptized and adopted sons and daughters, the child has the right to address God as Father. The whole community of believers who calls God Father joins the newly baptized in praying the Lord's Prayer.

11. Blessing

- In the final blessing the mother, father and the whole community ask for an outpouring of God's grace so that the parents can bring the child up in the faith with the support and prayers of the entire community.

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ALTERNATIVE LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

Goal for the Life Night

The goal for this night is to celebrate the new life given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism. This night will help the teens understand what happens during Baptism. The teens will be challenged to live as adopted sons and daughters of God.

Environment

The environment for this night is a “new birth-day” party. Set up the room like a kids birthday party. Your local party store will have all your environment needs for this night. Be as creative and colorful as possible. Have the walls decorated with streamers and big happy “new-birthday” signs. Create a few poster cutouts of the word “new” and place them before birthday on all the signs. If possible, have the Baptism dates of different teens and Core members all along the walls (a PowerPoint slide show of pictures and dates would work as well.) Have balloons of all colors and sizes tied to different things around the room. When the teens walk into the room they should be greeted with confetti or noisemakers and the Core yelling “Happy NEW birthday!”

GATHER *15 Minutes*

Welcome and Introductions (2 min)

The youth minister gathers the group together and welcomes everyone to the Life Night. He/she introduces any teens at Life Night for the first time. Ask the new teens about the best birthday party they had as a kid.

New-Birthday Party Games (13 min)

What’s a birthday party without party games? Every good birthday has a few party games. For this night, be sure that each game involves water. If needed, play these games outside. Give the winning team(s) a prize. Here are a few example games:

Water Balloon Toss:

Have teens pair up and give each pair a water balloon. Have the balloons be different shapes and sizes to make the tossing and catching more difficult. Every time the pair tosses the balloon and successfully catches it have them take one step backwards. The last team to not break their water balloon wins a prize

Wash Your Face!:

Have the teens pair up with a different partner and line up on opposite lines. Have about three feet between the partners. Give one partner a squirt of shaving cream and have them rub it on their face. Give the other partner a squirt gun full of water. The first team to wash all the shaving cream off their partner’s face wins a prize. If time allows, switch roles and play again. Be sure to have plenty of damp towels so the teens can wipe their faces of any remaining shaving cream

PROCLAIM *15 Minutes*

The Party: Episode 2 (2 min)

This semester features a reoccurring video series called “The Party.” Each Life Night of this semester features a new episode in which a teen hosts a party and the guests are personifications of the seven sacraments. These short videos are designed to introduce the teaching for each Life Night in the semester. In Episode 2, the first guest, Maya (representing Baptism), arrives. The person giving the talk can point out the following ways that she represents the sacrament:

- The name “Maya”– derived from the Hebrew *Mayim* which means water
- Always wet
- Wearing white
- Wants to watch “The Godfather”
- Holds Candle

The Party: Episode 2 can be found on Video Support 5

Teaching (13 min)

The goal of this teaching is to present the basics about the Sacrament of Baptism and the effect it has on the baptized. If possible, incorporate the witness of someone who was baptized as an adult.

Teaching can be found on pages 29-34.

CATECHISM REFERENCES:

- # 683
- # 1213-1284
- # 931
- # 1988
- # 2013

SCRIPTURES:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Matthew 3:1-12 | Luke 3:21-22 |
| Matthew 3:13-17 | John 1:22-34 |
| Matthew 29:19 | John 3:1-15 |
| Mark 1:9-11 | Acts 2:37-41 |

BREAK 30 Minutes**Small Group Discussion** (20 min)

Break the teens up into seven smaller groups. Each group will be assigned one part of the baptismal vows. After a time of small group discussion, the group will re-write their baptismal vow. Here is one way to break up the groups:

- Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?
- Do you reject sin as to live in the freedom of God's children?
- Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?
- Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?
- Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
- 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?
- 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?

Small Group Questions

- Do you remember anything about your own Baptism? Why did your parents have you baptized?
- What does it mean to be marked by Christ as an adopted son/daughter of God? Does your life reflect the reality of what happened to you at Baptism? Why or why not?
- What are some areas in your life that need to be "made new?"
- What are some practical ways we can live out our baptismal vows at school, home, work or sports teams?

Examination of Baptismal Vows (10 min)

After the group has finished the discussion questions, the Core member will explain that they have been given one of the baptismal vows and that the group must re-write the vow in their own words. First, the group will discuss what the vow means to them personally. As a group, re-write the vow based on what is discussed. At the end of the small group time, gather all the groups back together. Invite one teen from each group to read the original vow and then have the teen share the group's rewritten vow.

SEND 20 Minutes**Recap** (5 min)

After all the groups have shared, the youth minister should move the group to the holy water font in their church. Once the whole group is gathered, the youth minister should give a brief recap of the night and teaching.

Blessed and Renewed (15 min)

The Send of this night will give the teens an opportunity to understand why we use holy water and make the sign of the cross before entering or exiting the Church. The teens will also have an opportunity to renew their own baptismal promises. Gather the group around the holy water font. Most likely when the group moved into the place where the holy water font is kept, a few teens and Core members dipped their fingers in the holy water and made the sign of the cross. Begin by asking those who did to raise their hand. Ask one of the teens why they did that.

For many of us we do things like make the sign of the cross and bless ourselves without even thinking about it. That specific action has become so routine that we don't think twice about it, but do you really know what your actions are saying? This specific action of blessing ourselves and making the sign of the cross is a renewal of our baptismal vows. Through the waters of Baptism, we die to sin and rise with Christ to new life. We are set apart as sons and daughters of God. Blessing ourselves with holy water is used to remind us of those sacred actions. We say yes to God through the blessing and move into the church where we worship Him in thanksgiving for our new life through Baptism.

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ALTERNATIVE LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

Have the Core members stand at different locations and hold a bowl of holy water. Invite the teens to come forward to a Core member to renew their baptismal vows and be blessed. The Core member will ask each teen the seven questions of the Baptism vows and the teens will respond. Then the teen will bless himself/herself with holy water. Once blessed, have the teen move into the sanctuary for a time of prayer and worship. The youth minister should close the night in a prayer of thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Baptism, and by praying the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

Community Connection

- Ask the parents of the teens to submit pictures of the teens at their Baptism. Create a PowerPoint of these pictures that can be displayed throughout the Life Night.
- Give each teen a small party favor bag at the end of the Life Night with things in it such as pencils with star erasers, candy, stickers, and a small toy in the bag as well as a party hat. Be as creative and funny as possible with these.

Making It Work

- If your group is too large to break into only seven small groups, have two groups join together after small group questions for writing of the vows. Be sure the Core members know which group they are matching up with ahead of time.
- If the group is unable to move to the place where the holy water font is, set one up in your environment. Have the priest come bless the water before hand.
- The local dollar store is a great place to shop for the environment needs for this night.

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What it is:

Baptism. The very term brings to mind babies, white baptismal outfits, candles and “The Godfather.”

The truth of Baptism is much more than our imaginations will allow us to see. Just to give a quick overview of what happens: Original Sin and personal sins are forgiven, we become a new life, a new child of God the Father, members of the Body of Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit, members of the Church, participants in the priesthood of Christ. We are given a permanent character of being a Christian.

Baptism has always included reading from the Word, acceptance of the Gospel, proclaiming Baptism, outpouring of the Holy Spirit and Eucharistic communion. Even when Baptism of infants became common, it was important that they be educated in the “catechumenate,” or an intense training in the teachings of the faith.

In the Old Testament Baptism was seen in water, a source of life and death. It was in the story of Noah’s Ark, floating above death and sin in water, the Israelites passing through the water of the Red Sea and crossing the Jordan River into the promised land.

Jesus tells us in John’s Gospel that a man must be born “again” and “from above” with both “water and spirit” in order to gain the kingdom of heaven. The Greek word John uses, *anōthen*, carries the dual meaning of being born “again” and born “from above.”

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus instructs the apostles, the first bishops of the Church, to “go...and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” When St. Peter was preaching to the Jews, he asked all of those who had come to believe the truth of Jesus Christ to, “repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit.”

The water of Baptism literally washes away all of our sin. It especially washes away our Original Sin- that mark left on our souls, inherited from our first parents when they decided to turn their hearts away from God’s will. Baptism also washes away all of our personal sins – the sins that we have committed by our own free will. The water represents both the washing away of sin and the

Note to the Presenter:

In each of the sacramental teachings, we will attempt to cover the sacraments in three broad topics (what it is, how it is done, how it is lived). How you choose to make these come to life is dependent on the night and on the people you have doing the teaching. This might be a semester that you choose to have teens take a part of the teaching each night. This will allow them to educate themselves (which is great!) and be creative. Perhaps they create a video teaching, perhaps it is done within a skit - let your imagination run with it!

1 Peter 2:5

CCC 1213 - 1222

John 3:3,5

Matthew 28:19
Acts 2:38

CCC 1263
CCC 1214

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nourishment of the new life in Christ – the new life from above.

Through the power and grace of the sacrament, the divine presence dwelling within us, we are united with Christ's actions on the cross as well, which Jesus called His own Baptism. His death on the cross is our death to sin. His Resurrection is our resurrection, our new life in Christ, as St. Paul explains, "we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death... We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

CCC 1225
Mark 10:38
Rom. 6:3-4

This union with Christ, the Son of God, also unites us with the Father as his own adopted children. Just after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, the Father's voice from heaven proclaims, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." So too are we the Father's beloved. So too are we pleasing in the eyes of our Heavenly Father in our union with Christ through our Baptism.

CCC 1213, 1265-66
Council of Trent, VI, iv
Luke 3:22

United with Christ, we are not alone. We simply cannot be. Union with Christ means union with the entire body of Christ, the Church. St. Paul tells us "we are members one of another," because of our Baptism. It is what incorporates us into the Church, the Bride of Christ. This new life means that one no longer lives for himself, but lives for the One who gave him this new life. This is what makes us all members of the same Church.

Ephesians 4:25
CCC 1269

Baptism is one of only a few the sacraments that leaves an indelible mark on the soul. This means through Baptism, a permanent change of the very essence of the individual takes place. Forever, in this life and in the next, the baptized soul is sealed with the mark of belonging to Christ. Sin cannot erase this mark, even if sin prevents the soul's salvation. It also means that Baptism is only to be given once because of the nature of the sacrament. It lasts forever so it never needs to be repeated.

CCC 1272-1274

In our Baptisms and in our membership in the Church community, we are called to live a new life with Christ. God the Holy Spirit bestows gifts to us through our Baptism, which are later perfected through another sacrament, Confirmation. This grace allows us to follow our Lord more closely in discipleship and to have hope for our resurrection on the last day.

CCC 1274

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Christ affirms the necessity of Baptism. He tells us in John's Gospel, "no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." The Church herself teaches, as we say in the Nicene Creed, that we as Christians believe in one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. It is also a gateway to a life in the Spirit.

CCC 1257-1261

John 3:3,5

CCC 1213

How it's Done

Since the time of the apostles, the Church has traditionally held that the rite of Baptism should include the proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel by the catechumen (signifying conversion), a profession of faith, and finally the actual Baptism by which the Holy Spirit washes clean the stain of Original Sin from the soul of the new Christian.

CCC 1229

In the early Church, there was a lengthy practice of initiation into the Church whereby a catechumen was taught the truth of the Gospel and educated in the faith.

This process was concluded with the rite of Baptism and admission into full communion with the entire Church. Therefore, this meant that the newly baptized was immediately eligible to receive Holy Communion, as they have been redeemed in Christ and a member of the Church.

CCC 1230

Today, the order of this practice has been somewhat altered. Only when one is baptized as an adult can they immediately receive the Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist. Infants who are baptized still must go through catechesis in order that they may come to know and believe the faith into which they have been baptized.

CCC 1231

The Eastern Church baptizes, confirms and administers Holy Communion to infants in the same liturgical ceremony. However, there is still the same need for further catechesis for these spiritual graces to develop to their full potential within the life of the individual.

CCC 1242

For an adult to be baptized, he must first take the proper steps of the catechumen (one who is preparing for Baptism). Through this process of being educated in the faith, the future Christian will be able to take complete responsibility and ownership of his or her beliefs. This is why he or she makes his or her professions of faith during his or her Baptism. It signifies his or her conscious beliefs and therefore justifies his or her action.

CCC 1247-1249

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For children and infants, the catechesis is deferred until the age at which the child is able to learn about their faith. At the time of the liturgical ceremony, the child's parents and godparents make a pledge to teach the child about the faith and about living according to the Gospel.

CCC 1250-1252

For a person to be baptized, they must not have been previously baptized. Because of the indelible mark left on the soul, there is only need for one Baptism in a person's life. This is true in all forms of Christianity who baptize Christians specifically in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CCC 1246-1254

All sacraments use real, tangible elements in order to signify the true aspect of the mystery of the sacrament that we may be unable to see. In Baptism, there must be the use of ordinary water. The water does not need to be blessed, though it almost always is when the baptism is preformed in the Church. There also must be someone who desires to be baptized (or whose parent's desire them to be baptized in the case of infants) who has not yet already been baptized.

CCC 1238

The pouring of the water over the head of the one being baptized, or the immersion of the one being baptized depending on the particular liturgy, along with the formal words of the sacrament, "(name of the one being baptized), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit," is what constitute a valid Baptism. By this very act, sins are literally washed away and the new Christian is able to receive the kingdom of heaven by their union with Christ.

CCC 1239-1240

During the rite of Baptism, the ordinary minister of the sacrament, the priest or deacon, administers holy Chrism. This oil is the oil of catechumens and is only used during the sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation. At this time, the minister also lays hands upon the catechumen and explicitly renounces Satan.

**CCC 1256
CCC 1241
CCC1237**

Oil has been used since ancient times to anoint important people. During baptism, the priest anoints the baptized with the Chrism to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, which signifies their new life in Christ who was anointed priest, prophet and king. By our baptism, we too share in this inheritance as we share in Christ's new life.

CCC 1241-1242

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To show this new life in Christ, a new white garment is traditionally worn by the person who is being baptized. It is to symbolize that they have “put on Christ” through their baptism.

CCC 1243

In danger of death, a person can be baptized by a layperson. All the Church requires is that the (extraordinary) minister of the sacrament use ordinary water and that they intend to do what the Church does in baptism by their own act. The minister must then pour the water upon the one being baptized and use the formal words of the sacrament (see above) in order for the baptism to be valid. This is only to be done in the most extreme of circumstances, of course.

CCC 1256

How it's Lived

Baptism clearly isn't just a splash on the head and a new white outfit. It means so much more. As baptized Christians, we are members of the Church. We compose the mystical Body of Christ, partakers of the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, we are given the chance at eternal life. This is a precious gift that should be understood.

CCC 1269
CCC 1267

We are baptized into Christ's life, death, and Resurrection. Part of Christ's life into which we are baptized, is the life of priest, prophet, and king. Not only is there priesthood in the way we normally think of priests, but there is also a common priesthood of believers. In this role, the Christian lives out their Baptism through their priestly service in their community, as St. Peter's letter instructs us to let ourselves “be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

CCC 1268

As a Christian, we stand as a witness to the truth—a light in the darkness in the world. As one who is united to Christ, we are called to do what is right. This means following directions and being subordinate to our authorities. We are to live not only as an upstanding citizen, but as a good and moral follower of Christ who is the way, the truth and the light. It is through Christ that we have life, and through our Baptism that we are brought to new life by His death and Resurrection.

CCC 1269

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For every Christian, the Easter Vigil is almost like the highlight reel of baptismal reminders. From the Baptism of catechumens to the sprinkling of holy water, Christians renew their baptismal promises and vow to live their life according to the teachings of Christ. This renewal is part of the ongoing conversion that each Christian is called to live. Baptism is merely the beginning of their new life. The various reminders give us new strength to grow closer to our Lord and to lead a holier life.

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CHECKLIST

Core Planning Team:

Date of Life Night:

One month prior to the Night:

Give copies of the Life Night to each of the members of the planning team. Each person should read the Scripture and Catechism references as well as review the planning guide before the brainstorming meeting.

Get the planning team together for a brainstorming meeting (this should last no longer than 1 hour). The team prays and discusses where the teens are in their faith journey in relation to this topic. Then using this planning guide as a starting point, the team adapts the Life Night to meet the needs of the teens and the parish. Create a detailed outline with any changes and/or adjustments.

Assign the person responsible for each part of the Life Night:

Environment _____

Introductions _____

New Birthday Party Games _____

Renewal of Baptismal Vows _____

Two Weeks Prior to Life Night:

Turn in a detailed outline of the Life Night to the youth minister. Allow youth minister to give feedback and make any necessary changes.

Create a list of needed supplies and materials. Assign a person to be responsible for collecting and/or purchasing the materials needed.

Decide the people that will be doing the following things. Make sure they have a copy of the script and/or teaching outline. Inform them of any practices and/or deadlines.

Party Games _____

Teaching _____

Week of the Life Night:

Written outline of the teaching is given to the youth minister and practiced.

Run a dress rehearsal of the Life Night.

Create environment and collect needed supplies.

E-mail entire Core team an overview of the night and the small group questions.

Day of the Life Night:

Set up the environment. Make sure the room is clean and presentable.

Set up audio and video. Test the video clips to make sure both picture and sound work.

Walk the entire Core team through the Life Night. Make sure all transitions are ready and everyone knows their roles.

Pray! Pray for the teens attending the Night. Pray for God's will to be done through the night. Pray over those involved.