

THE EASTER VIGIL

Baptismal Liturgy

Introduction

Dearly beloved, with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope, so that, as they approach the font of rebirth, the almighty Father may bestow on them all his merciful help.

Litany

Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, R. pray for us.

Saint Michael,

Holy Angels of God,

Saint John the Baptist,

Saint Joseph,

Saint Peter and Saint Paul,

Saint Andrew,

Saint John,

Saint Mary Magdalene,
Saint Stephen,
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,
Saint Lawrence,
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,
Saint Agnes,
Saint Gregory,
Saint Augustine,
Saint Athanasius,
Saint Basil,
Saint Martin,
Saint Benedict,
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,
Saint Francis Xavier,
Saint John Vianney,
Saint Catherine of Siena,
(Other Saints)

All holy men and women, Saints of God,
Lord, be merciful, R. Lord, deliver us, we pray
From all evil,
From every sin,
From everlasting death,
By your Incarnation,
By your Death and Resurrection,
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
Be merciful to us sinners:

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bring these chosen ones to new birth through the grace of Baptism,

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfilment by your mighty power. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Blessing of Baptismal Water

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, who's Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the

squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of new-born children through water and the Holy Spirit.

And, if appropriate, lowering the paschal candle into the water either once or three times, he continues:

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font.

And holding the candle in the water, he continues:

So that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim:

Springs of water, bless the Lord;

Praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Renunciation of Sin

Using one of the following formularies, the priest questions all the candidates together or individually.

1. Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? I do.
2. Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? I do.
3. Do you reject Satan, father of sin, and prince of darkness? I do.

Adult candidates may now be anointed on the hands with the Oil of Catechumens.

We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour. May he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever?

R. Amen.

Profession of Faith

N., do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? I do.

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? I do.

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 the life everlasting? I do.

Baptism

The priest baptizes each candidate by the pouring of water.

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

Clothing with a Baptismal Garment

All the newly baptized receive a white garment.

N. and N., you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

R. Amen.

Presentation of a Lighted Candle

Godparents, please come forward to give to the newly baptized the light of Christ.

A godparent of each of the newly baptized lights a candle from the paschal candle and presents it to the newly baptized.

You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom?

R. Amen.

Confirmation

The newly baptized adults plus the candidates for confirmation and reception into the church with their godparents stand before the priest as he addresses them.

My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. The Lord receives you into the Catholic Church. His loving kindness has led you here so that, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, you may have full communion with us in the faith that you have professed in the presence of his family. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will

strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

The priest now addresses the assembly.

My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

Laying on of Hands

The priest holds his hands outstretched over the entire group of those to be confirmed and says the following prayer:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you feed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and

courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Anointing with Chrism

The godparent places his/her right hand on the shoulder of the candidate. The minister of the sacrament dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

Peace be with you. **R. And with your spirit.**

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises by all the
congregation**

*While holding lit candles, the entire community
renews its baptismal promises*

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

R: I do.

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

R: I do.

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? **R: I do.**

The community professes its faith:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **R: I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R: I do.

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? **R: I do.**

The Priest concludes:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. R. Amen.

The Priest sprinkles the people with blessed water, while an appropriate song is sung. After the sprinkling, the Priest returns to the chair where, omitting the Creed, he directs the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful). The Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated in the usual way.

The newly baptised and confirmed will bring the gifts of Bread, water wine and the collection to the altar at the offertory and present them to the priest.