

## Chapter 15 – Baptism: Becoming a Christian

Baptism involves the process of immersion. Our immersion into the water is a sign of death. Our emergence from the water is a sign of entrance into new life. In Baptism we symbolically do what Jesus actually did through His death and resurrection. We die and rise; we move through the Paschal Mystery and become a new creation.

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus, who submitted Himself to baptism by John in the Jordan River. He wanted to show His solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father.

- The liturgy of Baptism includes:
  - Sign of the Cross
  - Readings from Scripture
  - Exorcism and Anointing
  - Blessing of Baptismal Water
  - Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith
  - The Essential rite of the Sacrament (pouring of water and invocation of the Trinity)
  - Anointing with Sacred Chrism
  - White Garment
  - Candle

Effects of Baptism:

- Sins are forgiven
- We become adopted children of God
- We are initiated into the Church
- We are bonded to other Christians
- We are configured to Christ and belong permanently to Him

The Church teaches that Baptism of an infant may be postponed if there is not a “founded hope” that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith.

### Reflection:

- If someone asked you what Baptism means to you, how would you respond?
- What differences do you see between some “Cradle Catholics” and those who have entered the Church through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)?