

Baptism

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

Baptism regenerates a person as a child of God. It forgives original and all personal sin and fills the soul with grace. It confers the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:

SCRIPTURE (IN ORDER BY BOOK)

Gn 7:1-8:19	Noah and his family are saved from death by water in an ark
Ex 14:10-30	The Israelites are saved from Pharaoh by God's miraculous parting of the waters
Mt 13:17	Jesus is baptized by St. John and anointed by the Holy Spirit for his ministry
Mt 28:18-19	Jesus commissions his apostles to baptize all nations in the name of the Trinity
Mk 16:16	Belief in God must be accompanied by Baptism
Jn 3:1-18	Belief in God is necessary for salvation, and regenerative Baptism is also necessary
Rom 6:3-11	Baptism into Jesus is Baptism into his Death, and the Resurrection of Christ means that we too might have eternal life
1 Cor 12:27-13:13	The virtues of faith, hope, and love are greater than the gifts of ministry
2 Cor 5:17	The person in Christ is a new creation
Eph 4:4-6	In the one Body of Christ, there is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism
Eph 5:25-27	Christ's Paschal mystery was for the purpose of sanctifying his Bride, the Church, through Baptism, which regenerates the Church as a perfect, holy Bride
Col 2:12	Buried with Christ through Baptism, we are brought to new life with him
2 Pt 1:3-4	God has called us to everlasting life and to partake of his own nature

CATECHISM (IN ORDER BY PARAGRAPH NUMBER)

537	Baptism sacramentally joins the Christian to Jesus
977-978	Baptism is the principal sacramental means for forgiveness of sins and birth into new life, a forgiveness so complete that every sin, including original sin, is gone
1113-1130	The sacraments in general
1127-1128	By their very action, the sacraments accomplish what they symbolize, working by the power of Christ and not by the holiness of the minister of the sacrament
1213-1274	The sacrament of Baptism: names, prefigurements, in the New Testament, how it is celebrated, who can receive it, who can administer, its necessity, its graces

KEY TERMS

<i>Ex opere operato:</i>	A sacrament's effects depend on the valid administration of the sacrament itself, not on who administers it
<i>Form:</i>	The essential words and actions of a sacrament (this use of the term is analogous only, since the primary meaning of the term is as a constituent of material substance, together with matter)
<i>Indelible:</i>	Of a permanent and eternal character
<i>Matter:</i>	1) one of the intrinsic elements of creation, which, together with form make material substances; 2) in an analogous use of the term, regarding the essential material substances used in administering a sacrament (such as water or oil) or, in the broad sense of the concept of matter, it also is an action, such as the manifestation of contrition in the sacrament of Reconciliation
<i>Regeneration:</i>	The completely new life conferred by Baptism, becoming a son or daughter of God
<i>Sacrament:</i>	An efficacious sign of grace instituted by Christ and administered by the Church that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, imparts divine life
<i>Seal:</i>	A permanent change in the soul resulting from certain sacraments
<i>Theological virtues:</i>	The supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and love that equip human nature for participation in God's own life which are infused by God at Baptism

SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS FOR CATECHETICAL SESSION

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (tune: Azmon)	Sing Praise to Our Creator
Baptized in Water	Spirit, Move upon the Waters
Breathe on Me Holy One	The River Is Here
In Your Light	This Is the Spirit's Entry
Make My Heart Your Dwelling Place	We Know That Christ Is Raised
Now You Have Called Us	When John Baptized by Jordan's River
	With Joy You Shall Draw Water