



*Baptism*

QUESTIONS  
& ANSWERS

*Are you an adult and would you like to be baptised or have your child baptised?*

If the answer is yes, you may find yourself faced with many new questions. This booklet gives simple answers to some of the more usual questions. Perhaps some of the answers give rise in turn to more questions. In the pre-baptismal conversations with the priest/deacon you have the opportunity to talk about your reflections.

Before you begin studying these questions and answers, the Church would like to congratulate you who are thinking of the possibility of becoming a Christian. You have the chance of embarking upon an exciting journey of discovery. The Catholic faith in all its richness is a never-ending source of joy when it is lived out in everyday life. Baptism is a decisive step that brings about a new orientation in life.

The Church welcomes you who are thinking of having your child baptised. You have received a wonderful gift that brings both great joy and a great responsibility. Your love for your child is a part of God's love. In Baptism your child becomes a child of God in a special way. The Church, his/her new family, wishes to support as you raise your child.

The Church rejoices with all those who through Baptism become Christians, and she remembers them in her prayers.



Imprimatur: Stockholm, September 17, 2014

+ Anders Arborelius ocd, Bishop of Stockholm. © Katolska Pedagogiska Nämnden 2014

English translation: father Richard Hayward. Graphic form: PCG Malmö, Malmö

Published in cooperation with Veritas Förlag. Printers: Norra Skåne Offset AB 2014

Printed with contributions from Bonifatiuswerk



This booklet is also published in Swedish with the title: Dopet – frågor och svar

ISBN 978-91-87273-11-7



## CONTENT



1. Why should one baptise?
  2. How does one baptise?
  3. How does one prepare for Baptism?
  4. What is expected of the parents?
  5. Who can be a godparent?
  6. What are the commitments of the godparent(s)?
  7. Is Baptism necessary for salvation?
  8. Why are infants baptised in the Catholic Church?
  9. How old should the child be when it is baptised?
  10. Can an adult be baptised in the Catholic Church?
  11. I am a single parent. Can my children be baptised?
  12. We are not married but are just living together. Can our child be baptised?
  13. Can the child be baptised when the parents are not in agreement?
  14. Are there any costs for Baptism?
  15. Should one be registered in a Catholic parish in Sweden in order to have one's child baptised?
  16. What documents does one need to present?
  17. I was baptised in another Christian church. Do I need to be baptised again in order to become a Catholic?
  18. Can I have my child baptised in another parish than the one I belong to?
  19. May one have one's own songs and poems at the Baptism ceremony?
  20. Among the guests there are some who don't understand Swedish. What can we do so that they do not feel left out?
  21. Who should hold the child at the moment of Baptism?
  22. Does one need to think about what to wear in church?
  23. What should one do if the child cries very much?
  24. Who should I contact if I want to book a time for Baptism?
  25. I don't know much about the Catholic faith. How can I find out more?
- Some Baptism symbols PAGE 18
- Rite of Baptism of a child  
– Summary PAGE 20
- Rite of Baptism of a child PAGE 22
- Planning the Baptism ceremony PAGE 26
- For you who would like to know more PAGE 28





Baptism according to Melkite  
Greek Catholic Church.

## 1. 1. 'WHY SHOULD ONE BAPTISE?'

The answer is simple: Jesus wants us to baptise and teach (Matthew 28:19). God loves all men and women and he wants the very best for them. Baptism is his great gift to man who has been born in a world and in a condition that has lost its original purity and union with God. Through Baptism one is cleansed from sin and one is born of the Holy Spirit to a new life. The baptised person – whether adult or child – is now a child of God and a member of God's family, the Church. The baptised person is called to live very close to Jesus Christ throughout the whole of his or her life. Eternal life already begins at Baptism. For that reason Baptism should not be delayed without serious reasons. You can read more about the rich grace of Baptism under the heading "Some Baptism symbols", page 18.

## 2. 'HOW DOES ONE BAPTISE?'

The priest (the celebrant) immerses the candidate in water three times or pours water over his/her head three times, saying: "*N, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" Normally Baptism will be performed by a priest or deacon. In danger of death anyone can baptise, even one who isn't baptised himself. What is needed is the proper intention (*of doing what the Church wants to do*).



*"Just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another."*

### 3. HOW DOES ONE PREPARE FOR BAPTISM?

Before the Baptism of a child it is important to meet the priest or deacon two or three times. Conversations with the priest/deacon are a good opportunity to deepen one's own faith. By planning the Baptism ceremony together it is easier for everyone to understand what is happening and what commitments the parents and godparents have after the Baptism. A well-prepared ceremony is often more rewarding and meaningful for everyone. Some parishes arrange courses in which several parents and godparents can take part together.

Preparation for older children and for teenagers is often given together with the catechesis organised by the parish. For adults there is a special preparation for Baptism also known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Contact the parish for more details.



### 4. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PARENTS?

The Baptism of children presupposes that they will be told why they have been baptised. It is important that children learn to pray in the family and from an early age feel at home in the Church and in its liturgy. Children can be a challenge with their tricky and unexpected questions. Parents have the possibility of discovering and growing in their faith together with their children. The godparents and the parish can help them in this task. Parents are expected to ensure that their children

take part in catechism classes arranged by the parish in preparation for first holy communion and confirmation. Parishes begin catechism classes the same autumn as the children begin school. Contact the parish in good time.

## 5. WHO CAN BE A GODPARENT?

A baptised and confirmed catholic may be a godparent. He/she must be at least 16 years old. The godparent should be a person who has the capacity and the determination to help the baptised person to grow as a catholic. One can have up to two godparents. It is good to choose one woman and one man. The child's mother and father may not be godparents. An Orthodox Christian can be a godparent if the child can receive a Catholic education. A baptised member of another Christian denomination may be present as a Baptism witness.

## 6. WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS OF THE GODPARENT(S)?

At the Baptism of an infant the role of the parents and godparents is to profess the faith of the Church on behalf of the child. The godparent helps the child to grow in faith. He/she tries to accompany the godchild in the Christian life and be a good example. It is important that the godparent pray for the child and keep in contact.

### *What can a godparent do?*

Some examples: Send greetings on the anniversary of Baptism. Talk about Jesus and Mary. Be prepared to listen and talk to the godchild. Accompany the family at Mass and offer to help if the child becomes restless. Remind the family about catechism classes in the parish. Be present at the child's First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Even adults who are going to be baptised need a godparent. Baptism is only the first step. The baptised person still needs help in the rest of his or her life as a Christian so that faith may grow. The godparent can be an interlocutor and show how to live one's faith in everyday life. It is good if godparents can already be involved while the adult is preparing for Baptism.

## 7. IS BAPTISM NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?

Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been preached and who have had the possibility to ask for this sacrament. The Church never refuses to baptise anyone, though in certain cases Baptism may be postponed. This is the basic principle, but God is not bound by Baptism. The Church lives in the hope that unbaptised children are received by Jesus who has said: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).

What about the billions of people who have never heard about Christ? The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms: “Every man who is ignorant of the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved” (n. 1260). God wants all to be saved, Jesus Christ has died and risen for all.

## 8. WHY ARE INFANTS BAPTISED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Infant Baptism is an old tradition in the Church. The little child hasn't committed any sins but has been born in a world and a condition that has lost its original purity and union with God. Baptism restores this union. Baptism gives a promise of eternal life. At the Baptism of infants it is specially clear that God's love always comes first.

An objection to infant Baptism is that one should decide freely if one will be a Christian or not. A little child lacks the capacity to choose. It grows up in specific surroundings which affect its personality. If the child doesn't grow up as a Christian it will become something else. The empty space is always filled with something. But one can turn the question around and ask: could Christian parents choose not to baptise their child? After all they want to give it the very best. A child who has been baptised and has received instruction in the Catholic faith can later choose to say “yes” to its Baptism and profess its faith when he or she is confirmed. Only those who know what Christian faith involves can take a stand.

Oriental Catholics are already confirmed at Baptism. *Later on, e.g. when other Catholic friends are confirmed, instead of being confirmed again they can renew their baptismal promises and the grace of confirmation.*







## 9. HOW OLD SHOULD THE CHILD BE WHEN IT IS BAPTISED?

Children should be baptised in the first few weeks after birth. If the child is very ill it should be baptised immediately. When there is danger of death anyone can baptise the child (see question number 2). Moreover there is no upper limit for Baptism.



## 10. CAN AN ADULT BE BAPTISED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Everyone who has not already been baptised can receive Baptism. Older children, teenagers and adults should receive instruction in the Catholic faith before Baptism.

## 11. I AM A SINGLE PARENT. CAN MY CHILDREN BE BAPTISED?

The fact that you are a single parent is not an obstacle to your children being baptised. If you are a Catholic and you want them to grow up as Catholics, then they can be baptised.

## 12. WE ARE NOT MARRIED BUT ARE LIVING TOGETHER. CAN OUR CHILD BE BAPTISED?

Yes, if you want to give your child the possibility of growing up as a Christian. You need to speak about this with the priest or deacon. In the conversation with the priest/deacon the question of marriage will arise. The birth and Baptism of a child helps many couples to decide to get married.



### 13. CAN THE CHILD BE BAPTISED WHEN THE PARENTS ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT?

As a Catholic in a Catholic marriage one has promised that the child will be baptised and educated in the Catholic faith. If the parents have entered into a Catholic marriage it means that in principle they have agreed to this. According to canon law (Church law) it is sufficient if one of the parents/guardians wants the child to be baptised. In case of conflict it is good to contact the parish and talk with the priest. Often (sometimes) a provisional solution can be to delay the Baptism. This doesn't mean that the Church abandons the parents and the child. They are included in the prayers of the Church.

### 14. DOES BAPTISM COST ANYTHING?

Baptism doesn't cost anything, as the Church does not receive money for the sacraments. However one may have to pay for other items, e.g. Baptism candle, flowers and musician.

### 15. SHOULD ONE BE REGISTERED IN A CATHOLIC PARISH IN SWEDEN IN ORDER TO HAVE ONE'S CHILD BAPTISED?

As a Catholic living in Sweden one should be registered in a Catholic parish. An adult Catholic pays 1 % of his income as a "church fee" (kyrkoavgift). You can see this on your tax return; there you can also see if you are registered as a member of the Swedish Church. If that is the case, you should request withdrawal from the Swedish Church. One cannot be a member both of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Swedish Church or another Christian denomination. Catholic parents and godparents who have not been registered previously will be registered in their parishes. For more information, see [www.katolskakyrkan.se](http://www.katolskakyrkan.se).





## 16. WHAT DOCUMENTS DOES ONE NEED TO OBTAIN?

- » Personal certificate (personbevis) for the one who is to be baptised [www.skatteverket.se](http://www.skatteverket.se).
- » The godparents must be able to show that they are registered in a Catholic parish in Sweden.
- » If the godparents live abroad, they should obtain a certificate of Baptism and confirmation from the parish where they were baptised or where they live.

## 17. I WAS BAPTISED IN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. DO I NEED TO BE BAPTISED AGAIN IN ORDER TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

No, you do not need to be baptised again. If you were baptised with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, then the Baptism is valid.

## 18. CAN I HAVE MY CHILD BAPTISED IN AN OTHER PARISH THAN THE ONE I BELONG TO?

Baptism should in principle take place in the Catholic parish where one lives. It is desirable that the baptised child can grow up in the local parish. For the same reason the child should not be baptised at home. If there are special reasons Baptism may take place in another parish.



*“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Matthew 7:7*

## 19. MAY ONE HAVE ONE'S OWN SONGS AND POEMS AT THE BAPTISM CEREMONY?

It varies from parish to parish. In some parishes they have the following praxis:

The parents can choose bible texts and hymns. One can include the Christian names of the child and/or family members in the invocation of the saints. The family, godparents and friends can be active in the ceremony in different ways, for example reading some texts.

In any case, it is important to remember that Baptism is not a private family party. The Baptism service affects the deepest identity of the human being, one's relation to God and one's place in the community of the Church. Together with the priest/deacon one can decide what is appropriate in the ceremony. Bear in mind that poems can be read out by family and friends at the party afterwards. If possible it is desirable that several children be baptised at the same ceremony. Baptism can also be carried out at Sunday Mass.

## 20. AMONG THE GUESTS THERE ARE SOME WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND SWEDISH. WHAT CAN WE DO SO THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL LEFT OUT?

Speak to the priest/deacon about this. It is a good idea to read some of the texts or to sing a hymn in another language so that everyone can feel a sense of belonging. *Bear in mind that it is possible to have the whole Baptism service in English (or another language).*





## 21. WHO SHOULD HOLD THE CHILD AT THE MOMENT OF BAPTISM?

Usually the child is held by the mother. But there is nothing to preclude the father or one of the godparents from holding the child.

## 22. DOES ONE NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT TO WEAR IN CHURCH?

The child normally wears a white baptismal garment. It is a good idea to try it on beforehand in case it is too small. As for adults, one can remind them that the main persons in the Baptism ceremony are God and the person who is to be baptised. Baptism is a joyful celebration and one should dress in an appropriate manner.







### 23. WHAT SHOULD ONE DO IF THE CHILD CRIES VERY MUCH?

This is something you can discuss with the priest/deacon. Try to make sure that the baby is dry before the ceremony and that it isn't hungry. There is no problem with walking a little with the child if it makes him/her calmer. It can also be a good idea to have a dummy (*pacifier*) and a bottle of liquid at hand. But most important of all is that you keep calm. Even if the baby cries it is not a disaster.

### 24. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I WANT TO BOOK A TIME FOR BAPTISM?

Before deciding on a time for the Baptism you should meet the priest/deacon for a pre-baptismal conversation. Contact your parish. Many parishes have good homepages with opening hours and important telephone numbers. You can find your parish on the homepage of the diocese: [www.katolskakyrkan.se](http://www.katolskakyrkan.se).

### 25. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

You can always contact your parish so as to get to know more. Some parishes have special courses for adults on the Catholic faith. Don't be afraid to ask!

## *Some Baptism symbols*

**THE SIGN OF THE CROSS** is traced on the forehead. It is Jesus Christ himself who marks with his sign the one who will belong to him. The child (or adult) will be his. The sign of the cross reminds us of what Jesus has done for us, it is a sign of his love.

**WATER** is necessary for life. Water is used in daily life to cleanse. In the bath of Baptism one is cleansed from all sin. The water of Baptism gives us life: in Baptism we are united with Christ's death and resurrection, which are the source of eternal life. The new life is like a little seed that will then grow and mature.

**CHRISM** is a fragrant blend of oil and balsam blessed by the bishop during Holy Week. In the Old Testament we read that kings, priests and prophets were anointed for their mission. The word Christ means the Anointed One. Jesus Christ is King, Priest and Prophet. When the baptised person is anointed with chrism he receives a mission to bear witness with his whole life to the love of Christ. This is a mission for kings, priests and prophets. Anointing signifies that the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon the newly-baptised person. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter who helps Christians to grow in their mission. The Holy Spirit fills them with God's love, strength and life. The baptised person becomes more and more like Jesus.





**THE WHITE BAPTISMAL GARMENT/BAPTISMAL DRESS** Immediately after the Baptism has taken place the newly-baptised is dressed in the baptismal garment. This makes it clear that he/she has become a new creation and has been clothed in Christ. The child's baptismal garment is too long; this signifies that the child has to grow, Baptism is just the beginning of a whole life with Jesus.



**THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE** reminds us that we have been baptised into Jesus Christ who is the Light of the world. The light of faith leads the friends of God through life. The baptismal candle can be lit at First Holy Communion, Confirmation and on one's anniversary of Baptism or birthday.



**“EPHATA – BE OPENED!”** The priest (or deacon) says these words and touches the baptised person's ears and mouth, praying that he/she will be open to hearing God's voice and proclaiming his/her faith.

# Rite of baptism of a child = summary



## 1. RECEPTION OF THE CHILD AT THE CHURCH DOOR

- » Questions to the parents:  
*What name have you given your child?*  
*What do you ask of God's Church for N.?*
- » Question about the parents' willingness to bring up the child in the Christian faith.
- » Questions to the godparents:  
*Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?*
- » The sign of the cross



## 2. IN THE CHURCH

- » Readings from the Bible
- » Homily
- » Intercessions
- » Invocation of the Saints
- » Prayer for liberation from the power of Satan
- » The laying on of hands



#### 4. CONCLUSION OF THE RITE BEFORE THE ALTAR

- » The Lord's Prayer
- » Blessing
- » Prayer before Mary, Mother of God (optional)



#### 3. AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT

- » Blessing of the baptismal water
- » Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith
- » Baptism
- » Anointing with Chrism
- » Clothing with the White Garment
- » Lighted Candle
- » Ephata – Prayer over Ears and Mouth



# Rite of baptism of a child

*The celebrant greets all present, and especially the parents and godparents, reminding them briefly of the joy with which the parents welcomed the child as a gift from God, the source of life, who now wishes to bestow life on this little one.*

Celebrant: What name have you given your child?

Parents: N.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents: Baptism.

Celebrant: You have asked to have N. /and N. baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her/them in the practice of faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her/them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Celebrant: Asking the godparents:

Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mother and father?

Godparents: We are.

Celebrant: N. /and N., the Church of God welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents (and godparents) to do the same.

*Sign of the cross on forehead. Invite Parents and God parents to do the same.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **First Reading**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

### **Second Reading**

### **Gospel**

### **Homily**

### **Prayer of Faithful**

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on N. /and N. who is/are to be baptized, on his parents and godparents, and on all the baptized.

Celebrant: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe N. /and N. in light, give him/her/ them the new life of baptism and welcome him/ her/ them into your holy Church.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Through baptism and confirmation, make N. /and N. your faithful follower(s) and witness (es) to your gospel.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lead him/her/ them by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Make the lives of his/her/ their parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire him/ her/ them.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Keep his/her/ their families always in your love.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

### ***Litany of Saints***

Holy Mary, Mother of God – pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist – pray for us.

Saint Joseph – pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul – pray for us.

All holy men and women – pray for us.

### ***Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism:***

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you sent your only Son into the world  
to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil,  
to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness,  
and bring him into the splendor of your kingdom  
of light.

We pray for N./and N.

set them free from original sin,  
make them a temple of your glory,  
and send your Holy Spirit to dwell within them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

### ***Anointing on breast with Oil of Catechumen***

### ***Celebration of the Sacrament***

#### ***Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water***

Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power. In baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters making them the wellspring of all holiness.

The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people,

set free from sin by baptism.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Father, look now with your love upon your Church, and unseal for her the foundation of baptism.

By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son. You created man in your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth to innocence by water and the spirit.

We ask you, Father, with your son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

### ***Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith***

Celebrant: Dear parents and godparents:

You have come here to present for baptism N./and N. By water and the Holy Spirit he/she/they is/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 him/her/them up in the practice of faith. See that the divine life which God gives him/her/ them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his/her/their heart (s).

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 N. /and N. is/are about to be baptized.

***For parents and godparents:***

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

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

Parents & 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 and of the Father?

Parents & 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 & Godparents: I do.

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.

***Baptism***

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

Parents & Godparents: Yes.

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

***Anointing with Chrism***

Celebrant: God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with

the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as members of his body, sharing everlasting life.

All: Amen.

***Anointing with Chrism on the forehead***

***Clothing with White Garment***

Celebrant: N. you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of our Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: Amen.

***Lighted Candle***

Celebrant: Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. N. /and N. has/ have been enlightened by Christ. He/she/they is/ are to walk always as a child/children of the light. May he/she/they keep the flame of faith alive in his/her/their heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she/they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

All: Amen.

***Liturgy of the Eucharist (continues as usual if priest is celebrant)***

***Communion Rite***

Lord's Prayer:

Celebrant: Dearly beloved, N. /and N. have been reborn in baptism. He/she/they is/are now called child/children of God, for so indeed he/she/they is/are. In confirmation he/she/they will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion he/she/they will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his/her/their Father in the



midst of the Church. In his name, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

### ***Prayer after Communion***

#### ***Announcements***

#### ***Blessing***

Celebrant: God the Father, through his son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless N. /and N. the mother of N. /and N. She/they now thank (s) God for the gift of N./and N. May she/they be one with him in thanking him for ever in heaven in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Priest: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless N. /and N. the father of N. /and N. With N. /and N. He/they will be the first teachers of N. /and N in the ways of faith. May he/they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon all present, who are his sons and daughters. May he make them always, wherever

they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

#### ***Concluding Rite.***

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: May the almighty God, bless you, the Father and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant: The Mass is ended, go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Planning the baptismal service

*Suggested Bible texts which can be read at the baptismal service*

## A TEXT FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT OR THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Cor 12:12-13

Tit 3:4-7

Rom 6:3-5

1 Pet 2:4-5, 9-10

Ex 17:3-7

Ez 36:24-28

Eph 4:1-6

Ps 23

Ps 27

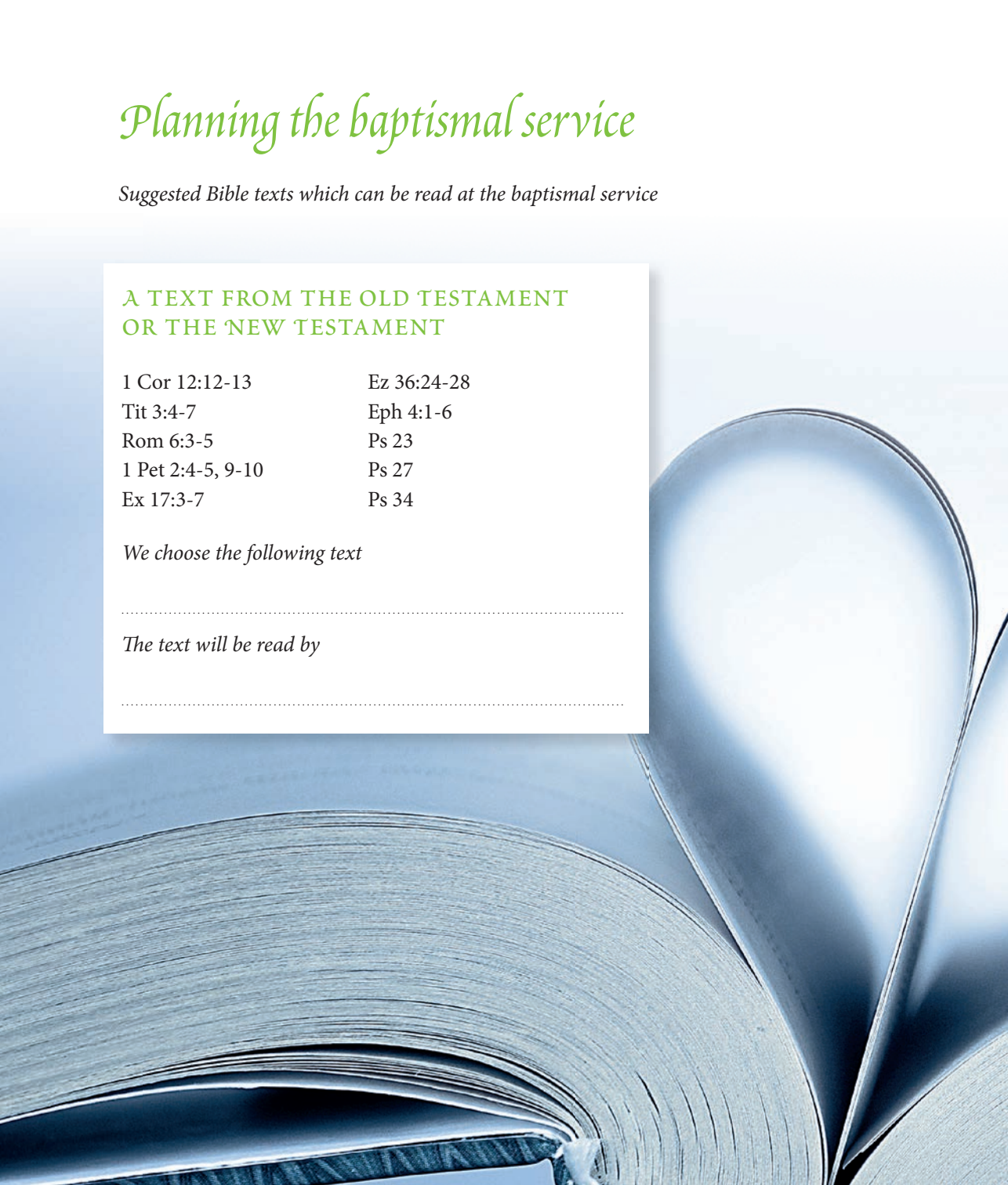
Ps 34

*We choose the following text*

.....

*The text will be read by*

.....



## A TEXT FROM THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

Mark 1:9-11

Matt 28:18-20

John 3:1-6

John 6:44-47

John 7:37b-39a

Matt 22:35-40

*We choose the following Gospel text*

.....  
*The text will be read by the priest/deacon.*

## HYMN

*We would like to sing the following hymn/hymns*

.....  
*We would like the following patron saints to be named in the Invocation of the Saints*

.....  
*The Intercessions will be read by*

.....  
*One can also formulate one's own intercessions, especially when they will be read by one or more children. Sometimes the names of the brothers/sisters of the baptised child can be mentioned in the intercessions.*



*For you who would like to know more*

### THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A comprehensive summary of the whole of the Catholic Church's teaching both as regards faith and the practice of the Christian life.

[www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)

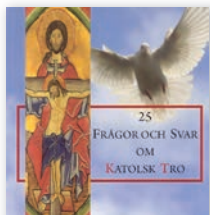
### OREMUS

Catholic prayer book in Swedish, with daily prayers, meditations, Liturgy of the Hours, prayers for the liturgical year, etc. A presentation of the Sacraments.

### CECILIA

Catholic hymnbook. Contains hymns for the whole liturgical year, texts of the Mass, responsorial psalms, prayers of the priest for all Sunday Masses and a liturgical calendar.

# Published by Katolska Pedagogiska Nämnden ([www.kpn.se](http://www.kpn.se))



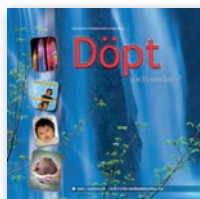
## 25 frågor och svar om katolsk tro

Concise answers to frequently asked questions.



## Rakt på sak om att vara katolik

The most common questions about the faith and life of Catholics. Misconceptions are clarified and receive serious answers. Informative and entertaining. (Gallagher/Henesy, Katolska Pedagogiska Nämnden) English original: How to survive being married to a Catholic

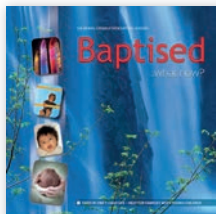


## Katolsk tro

A series of 27 small booklets on the faith and life of the Church.

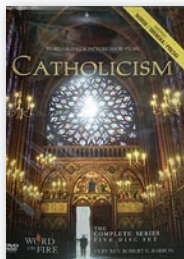
## Döpt – och sedan?

**Baptised... what now?** Support for parents so that they can grow in faith together with their children.



## Min egen babybook

An attractive book with thoughts, poems and prayers. Contains pages to fill in with facts and memories from the child's first years.



## Catholicism

5 DVD (Robert Barron, Katolska Pedagogiska Nämnden, Katolska Utskottet för Evangelisation, Bilda). English soundtrack. Subtitles in Swedish, Polish and Norwegian

# Internet

## BOOKSTORES AND PUBLISHERS:

[www.lillathere.se](http://www.lillathere.se)

[www.katolskbokhandel.com](http://www.katolskbokhandel.com)

[www.veritasforlag.se](http://www.veritasforlag.se)

[www.catholica.se](http://www.catholica.se)

## VATICAN HOMEPAGE

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

## CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SWEDEN

with news, all the Catholic parishes in Sweden, Catholic organisations, schools, associations. Links to homepages related to our Church.

[www.katolskakyrkan.se](http://www.katolskakyrkan.se)

## RESPEKT

Catholic movement that works to promote the inviolability of human life from conception to a natural death.

[www.respektlivet.nu](http://www.respektlivet.nu)

## NEWMANINSTITUTET

Courses and seminars in theology, philosophy and culture.

[www.newman.se](http://www.newman.se)

## CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA

[www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org)

## PERIODICAL

[www.katolsktmagasin.se](http://www.katolsktmagasin.se)

[www.signum.se](http://www.signum.se)





*Baptism of the Lord by Mattia Petri (1613-1699) © Photo Scala, Florence*

### IMAGE SOURCES

Church window page 12 from Maria i Rosengård parish, Malmö © Malgorzata Jarosz.

Baptismal images page 6, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19 from Vår Fru Catholic parish in Täby, photo Carina Åkesson.

Page 4, Baptism according to the Melkite Catholic rite, photo Michel Louis. Baptismal font page 28 from the Church of Tysslinge, photo Per Englund. Illustrations page 20-21 Rauha Navarro Marttinen.



This booklet contains information about the Baptism of the Catholic Church. It is a helpful guide to the preparation of the sacrament of Baptism, for yourself or for your child.



Hilfswerk für den Glauben

**bonifatius  
werk**