

# Holy Baptism Part 1: Its Nature

*What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Baptism is a Sacrament. A Sacrament is 1) Instituted by the command of Christ; 2) in which Christ joins His Word of Promise to a visible element; 3) by which He offers the forgiveness of sins He earned for us by His suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus won our salvation on the cross. He has commanded us to be Baptized. Baptism is Christ's Word added to water, by which He gives us forgiveness of sins. The Catechism goes on to ask:

*Which is that Word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of **Matthew**: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (**Matthew 28:19**).

God's Word has power. It was by His Word that He created the heavens and the earth. God says in **Isaiah 55:11**, *"so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* There is nothing magical or special about the water in the Baptismal font. It's God's Word added to the Water that makes it a Baptism, when we say, "I Baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The next three weeks, we will talk about the blessings of Baptism, how it works, and what it means.

*Dear God, Thank You for giving us Baptism, that we might have our sins forgiven and have life in You. Amen.*