

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF INFANT BAPTISM

THE WHITE GARMENT

This portion of the letter is to clarify the “white garment.” Some families have an heirloom Baptismal gown, which has been handed down over the generations, and would like to continue that tradition. Other families would like to begin that tradition at this time. While this is not a requirement, it certainly is an option. Light of the World provides a white garment for your child. It is 100% cotton and slips over the head. There are no side seams for ease of dressing. The godmother presents this garment to you during the ceremony.

Preparation:

PLEASE ARRIVE AT MASS 15 MINUTES EARLY with godparents and introduce yourselves to the Priest or Deacon. You will begin with prayer in the Sacristy. He will seat you in sections at the front of the Worship Space.

I. Rite of Welcome

Before Mass begins, the parents, godparents, and baby should be in the baptistery (font area) with the celebrants for the welcoming ceremony.

The Priest or Deacon will introduce you and ask:

“What name do you give to your child?”

(You speak your child’s name aloud.)

and, **“What do you ask of God’s Church for your child?”**

(You respond “baptism”, or “The Sacrament of Baptism”)

and, **“You have asked to have your child baptized...do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”**

(You respond “we do!”)

The Priest or Deacon will introduce the Godparents and ask them: **“are you ready to help these parents in their duties as Christian mother and father?”**

(Godparents respond: “we are!”)

Priest or Deacon welcomes the child with the Sign of the Cross on forehead, and **parents/godparents then sign the child.**

II. Procession

Deacon, other minister leads procession with paschal candle, followed by attendants, lector, parents (carrying child), godparents (carrying white garment) and priest.

While processing slowly to the Opening Song, pause to allow people along the aisle to greet your baby with sign of cross on forehead.)

III. Celebration of Sacrament

After the homily, the Priest or Deacon will call parents, godparents and baby to come up to the top level of the altar platform.

(Cantor will lead Litany of the Saints as you come forward.)

Priest or Deacon will address you and ask you to profess your faith, with several questions.

You respond: "I do!"

- Priest or Deacon invites the family to the font.
- Priest or Deacon pour water over the baby's head, and returned to the baby's parents,
- Priest or Deacon then anoints baby with Chrism, rubbing it into crown of head.
- Priest or Deacon will introduce New White Garment or baptismal gown provided by the parents, which ***parents/godparents place on the baby.***
- Priest or Deacon presents Godparent with candle, lighted from paschal candle.
- Priest or Deacon invites assembly to welcome newly baptized baby, and takes baby in his arms down to the floor and into the assembly.

Parents and godparents return to seats.

(keep, but extinguish candle)

- Priest or Deacon returns baby to parents at seat and continue with Mass.

IV. Final Blessing

After Communion, at the conclusion of Mass, Priest or Deacon will call parents forward.

Step forward, remaining on floor level.

V. Recessional

Parents process out behind attendants and lector, in front of priest/deacon.

Stop and stay behind the baptismal font, to be greeted by the assembly as they exit the Worship Space.