

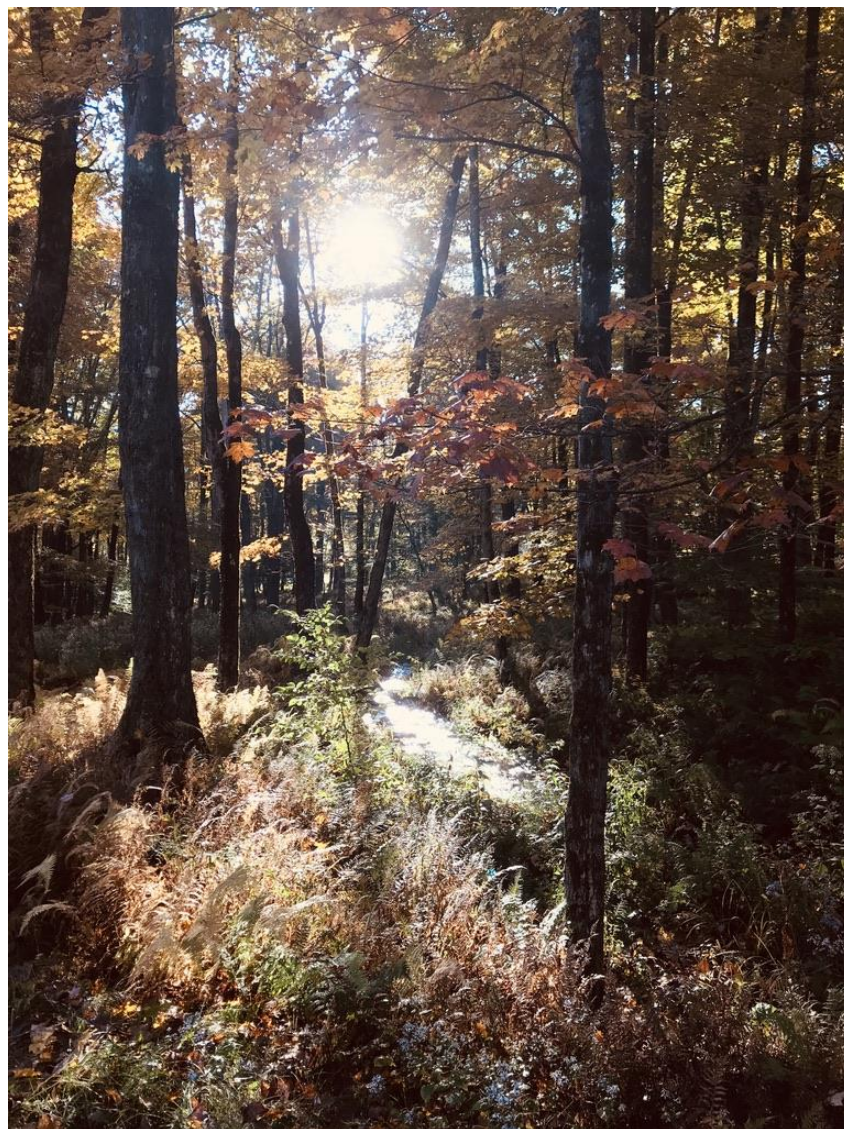
BAPTISM

The Doorway to Eternal Life



Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213)



Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213)

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift.... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism

because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship. (St. Gregory Nazianzus, 4th century)



ENLIGHTENMENT



**“This bath is called
enlightenment...”
(Catechism, #1216)**

**“Let your light shine before men in such a
way that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
(Matthew 5:14)**

“RUN WHILE YOU HAVE LIGHT OF LIFE, LEST THE
DARKNESS OF DEATH OVERTAKE YOU”
(John 12:35)



BAPTISM MAKES US
“SONS OF LIGHT”

Why Baptism?

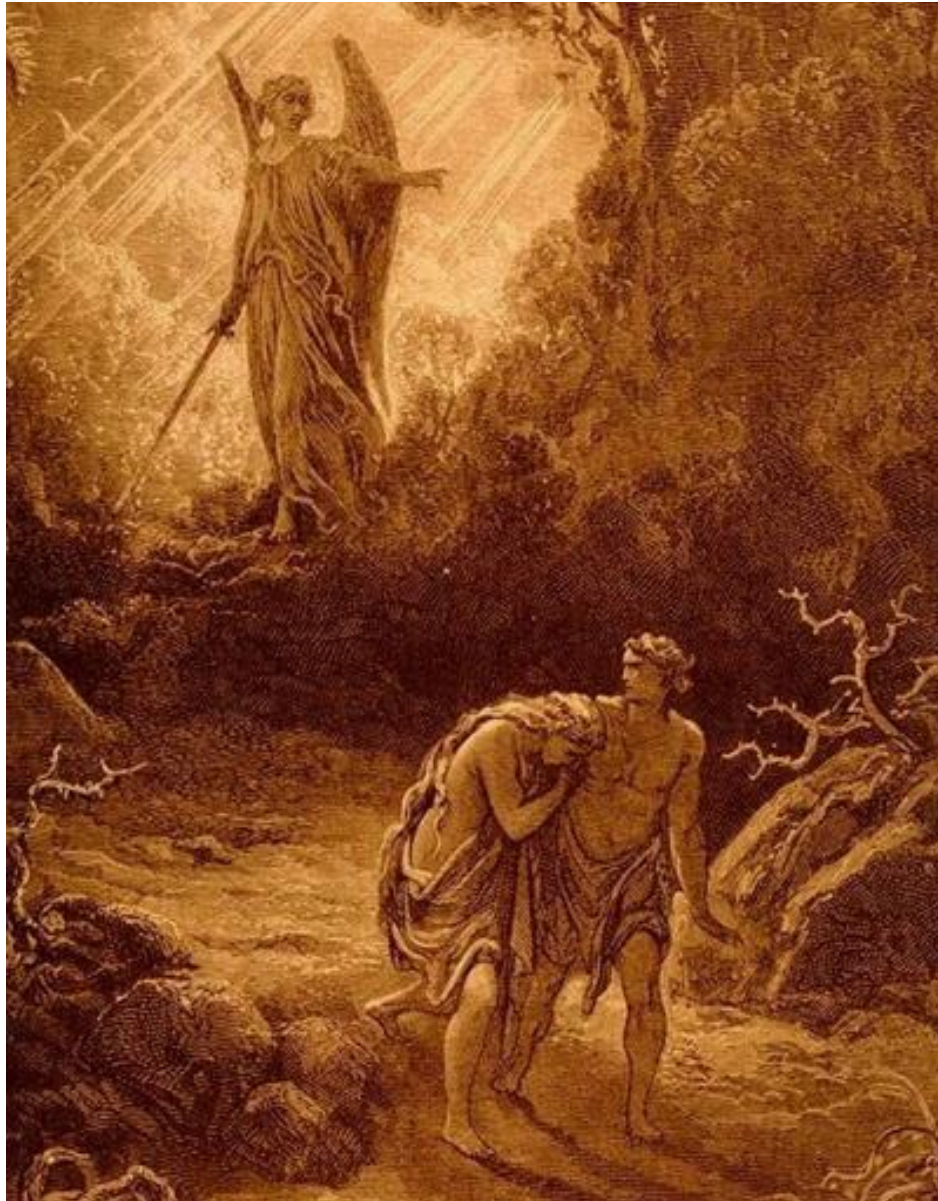
It's the final command of Christ before he ascended to his Father in heaven.

The eleven* disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore,* and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have

commanded you.* And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)



Why did Christ command this?



Man and Woman fell when they turned from God

“After God drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword, flashing back and forth, to guard the way to the Tree of Life.” (Genesis 3:24)

SIN

Human history had a tragic beginning



“Am I my brother’s keeper?”
(Genesis 4:9)

By Baptism *all sins* are forgiven...



...original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God. (Catechism 1263)

“Yet certain temporal consequences of sin remain in the baptized, such as suffering, illness, death, and such frailties inherent in life as weaknesses of character, and so on, as well as an inclination to sin...” (Catechism 1264)

BAPTISM GIVES US THE GRACE TO OVERCOME THIS

Baptism is the means by which Christ, working through his Church, makes us a new creation.

Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes us new creatures, “partakers of the divine nature,” members of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. (Catechism 1265)



“Baptism indeed is the seal of eternal life.”

(Catechism 1274)

Baptism gives a person entrance into a New Heaven and a New Earth



...and the New Jerusalem



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven.... from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying...

“Behold God’s dwelling is with the human race.”



He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away.” The one who sat on the throne* said,

“Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.” He said to me, “They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor* will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son. (Revelation 21: 1-7)

