

### **What Catholic believes about Baptism:**

1. Baptism changes a person, it leaves an indelible spiritual mark occurs. We belong to Christ once baptized. No sin can erase this mark of belonging. Baptized are consecrated for Christian religious worship. Baptized now serve God by participation in the liturgy and exercise their baptismal priesthood by the witness of holy lives and practical charity. Baptism is done only once.
2. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. Original and personal sins. Nothing then impedes their entry into the Kingdom of God. Yet consequences of sin remain: illness, death, weakness in character, an inclination towards sin.
3. Baptism makes us a new creation. Not only purifies us from sin, but also makes the person a new creature. ADOPTED and a partaker of the divine nature, a temple of the Holy Spirit once one is baptized. Baptism helps one to believe in God, hope in him, and love him. Baptism helps one to grow in goodness through moral virtues.
4. Incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ. Member now of the Body of Christ. Therefore we are members of one another. From the baptismal font is born ONE PEOPLE who transcend all the natural human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes. The baptized share now the priesthood of Jesus Christ, having become a member of the Church. Baptism gives one the responsibilities and duties, but also enjoys rights within the church to receive the sacraments, to be nourished by the word of God, and other spiritual helps of the church.
5. Lord himself affirmed that Baptism is necessary for salvation, and also commanded that we go out to all the world baptizing. Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. "What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.'"(Gospel of John.)
6. The Church baptizes infants because the Church wants the parents to share with their child all that they have which is good and enriching in life and faith is a gift like that. The Church has had a long tradition of baptizing babies. See the Acts of the Apostles 16: 15,33; 33; 18:8; and 1Corinthians1: 16