

This prayer service is best used anytime during the study of the sacraments of initiation (chapters 3-5) in the book *Our Sacramental Life*.

**Prayer Service:  
“Rejoice, Chosen People: Baptismal Recommitment”**

**Needs:**

- One small bowl of holy water
- One small bowl of oil (such as baby oil or olive oil)
- A strip of plain white cloth for each student—placed together in a basket
- A small candle for each student (such as tea lights or birthday candles)—placed together in a basket
- Student journals (optional)

**Introduction**

For many of us, Baptism was a long time ago. Our parents and godparents made our first baptismal promises for us, promises we renew at mass during the Easter season and at our confirmation. Our Baptismal ceremony, however, contained other rituals—like receiving a candle—that were accompanied by prayers challenging us to live a deep, meaningful Christian life. This prayer service will give us the opportunity to revisit these rituals and to pray once again the prayers that accompanied them.

**Ritual 1: Holy Water**

**Leader:** (*blessing him/herself with holy water:*) I begin with the sign of our Baptism and ask each of you to do the same...In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Leader passes the bowl around to each person.)

**Ritual 2: Post-Baptismal Anointing**

**Reader 1:** 1 Peter 2: 9-10a.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God’s own, so that you may announce the praises” of the One who called you out of darkness into God’s wonderful light. Once you were “no people,” but now you are God’s people.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we hear, “Christ...has made of the Church ‘a kingdom, priests for his God and Father.’ The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his or her own vocation, in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are ‘consecrated to be...a holy priesthood’.” How am I in my daily life trying to carry on Christ’s mission?

**Ritual**

**Leader:** I now mark myself with oil as a reminder of my anointing with chrism after Baptism and ask each of you to do the same. (*Leader makes a small cross on his/her head with oil. Others follow. When all have finished, Leader prays:*) “The God of power and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King. Amen.”

### **Ritual 3: Clothing with a Baptismal Garment**

**Reader 2:** Galatians 3: 26-28.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we hear, “The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has ‘put on Christ,’ has risen with Christ.” If we are indeed “one in Christ Jesus” where in my life do I still need to work on unity? Where in my life is there division or a lack of peace?

#### **Ritual**

**Leader:** I now take a strip of white cloth and tie it to my wrist as a reminder of my baptismal garment and ask you to do the same. (*Leader takes a strip. Others follow. When all have finished, the leader prays:*) “You have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life. Amen.”

### **Ritual 4: Presentation of a Lighted Candle**

**Reader 3:** John 8:12

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we hear, “The candle, lit from the Easter candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte [the newly baptized]. In him the baptized are ‘the light of the world.’” Where are dark places in the world where I can bring the light of Christ? In other words, how can I brighten the lives of others?

#### **Ritual**

**Leader:** I now take a candle as a reminder of the lighted candle I received at Baptism. I ask you to do the same. (*When all have their candles, the leader prays:*) “You have been enlightened by

Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom. Amen.”

**Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** Signifying our unity in Christ, we pray together in the words he taught us.

**All: Our Father...**