

Dear Padre,

Why should I have my baby baptized?

Some parents pondering baptism say a child should mature first, then choose his or her religion. Yet, parents make many choices for their children—including name, diet, bedtime, and education. To forgo baptism means to choose a nonreligious outlook on life for your child. Indeed, objection to baptism can be a veiled statement about the parents' disregard for religion.

Baptism confers many benefits. First, it cleanses the soul of original sin. Scripture says Adam and Eve relinquished their God-centeredness, instead adopting a self-centered attitude. They thought of themselves as the center

of the universe. Such self-delusion is the origin of all sins. Baptism reverses this, with God telling the child he is loved and regarding him like his own Son, Jesus. Baptismal waters immerse the child into the depths of God's love.

Second, baptism begins a new life of loving response to God's love. Of course,

infants don't understand this during baptism. Children learn it from religious training and their parents' example. The sacraments aid us in living this life of love, especially the Eucharist in which Christ comes to us as bread and wine to nourish us with his love. As parents give a child her very existence, through baptism they set her on course toward eternal life.

Finally, baptism makes the recipient a member of Christ's body, the Church. The child, along with other Church members and guided by ordained pastors, will speak for Christ in society. What parent doesn't want the best for his or her child? Through baptism, God also wants the best for them.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Monday
JULY 4
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26
Tuesday
JULY 5
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38
Wednesday
JULY 6
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7
Thursday
JULY 7
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15
Friday
JULY 8
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23
Saturday
JULY 9
Weekday
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33
Sunday
JULY 10
Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Dt 30:10–14
Col 1:15–20
Lk 10:25–37

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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[Babies] have a "choral" dimension: it is enough for one of them to start to "sing" and everyone follows and there will be a concert. Do not be alarmed. It is a beautiful homily when a baby cries in church....Make sure that they are all right and let us move forward.

ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO NEWBORNS, JANUARY 12, 2020



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