Celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Celebration of Baptism
Presentation of the Candidates

A Deacon or another person calls the elect and their godparents forward.

Presenter:
We call forward those who are to be baptized along with their godparents.

They are called forward by name.

A. When the font is in an area distinct from the sanctuary.

(When celebrated in the Easter season)
A Deacon or acolyte goes to the Easter Candle and removes it from its stand. He brings the candle to the center aisle and faces the altar.

The Elect and godparents stand and come to the front of the aisle and follow the person holding the candle.

(Outside the Easter Season, the Easter Candle should be near the font.)

An acolyte brings the cross forward and leads the procession to the font.

The Elect and godparents stand and come to the front and follow the cross.

B. When the font is in the sanctuary.

As their names are called, the Elect and their godparents stand, enter the sanctuary, and proceed to near the font.
Litany of Saints

*Invitation to Prayer:*

**Presider:**

Dearly beloved,
with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers
come to the aid of these our brothers and sisters in their blessed hope,
so that, as they approach the font of rebirth,
the almighty Father may bestow on them
all his merciful help.

**Deacon or Presider:** Please stand.

*Litany of the Saints:* The cantor begins the litany of the saints.

The procession goes to the baptismal font or if at the font, stay there.

After the litany, the Presider, with hands extended, leads the following prayer:

**Presider:**

Almighty ever-living God,
be present by the mysteries of your great love
and send forth the spirit of adoption
to create new peoples
brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism,
so that what is to be carried out by our humble service
may be brought to fulfillment by your mighty power.
Through Christ our Lord.
R/ Amen
Blessing of the Water:

The Presider standing at the Baptismal Font prays this prayer or one of the optional prayers for the Blessing of Water with hands extended. (If water that had been blessed at the Easter Vigil is present, options D or E can be used. RCIA #222)

Presider:

O God, who by invisible power
accomplish a wondrous effect
through sacramental signs
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit
in the first moments of the world’s creation
hovered over the waters,
so that the very substance of water
would even take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood
foreshadowed regeneration,
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,
so that the chosen people,
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,
would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son,
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side along with blood,
and after the Resurrection, commanded his disciples:
“Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism. May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image, and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R/ Amen.
Profession of Faith:

The Presider begins the renunciation of sin and profession of faith (RCIA, #224-225).

Presider:

Do you renounce Satan?
R/ I do.

And all his works?
R/ I do.

And all his empty show?
R/ I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
R/ I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
R/ I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?
R/ I do.
Baptism:

Each elect comes to the font and is baptized. The godparent places his/her right hand on the elect’s shoulder.

Presider:

[N.], I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
He pours water the first time.  
and of the Son,  
He pours water the second time.  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
He pours water the third time.

Clothing with the White Garment:

The Presider says the prayer of the white garment as the godparents clothe the newly baptized.

Presider:

Dear newly baptized, 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.

Presentation of Candle

The Presider then asks the godparents to light the baptismal candle from the Easter Candle held by a deacon or acolyte.

Presider:

Dear newly baptized, 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.

Newly Baptized:  AMEN

The newly baptized move to the front of the sanctuary.
Celebration of Confirmation

Invitation:

The Presider introduces the rite of confirmation (RCIA, #233). A moment of silent prayer follows.

Presider:

My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

Laying on of Hands

Presider:

With hands joined, the Presider invites the people to prayer.

Dear friends, let us pray to God the almighty Father, for these, his adopted sons and daughters, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing, conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

After a brief moment of silence, the Presider extends his hands over the entire group and says the following prayer.

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.
Anointing with Chrism

The Presider goes to each person and anoints them with chrism. A deacon or acolyte holds the Chrism.

Presider:
N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Newly Confirmed:
Amen.

Presider:
Peace be with you.

Newly Confirmed:
And with your spirit.

When all have been confirmed, the Presider invites the assembly to welcome them. The newly confirmed and their godparents take their places in their pews.

Following the anointing the servers move to the Presider to wash his hands.

The Nicene or Apostles Creed is prayed.

The universal prayers (general intercessions) follow.

Eucharistic Liturgy

With Eucharistic prayers I, II, or III, the special interpolations given in the Roman Missal are used (RCIA #242).

Reminder: Before Communion, the celebrant is instructed to remind the neophytes of the centrality of the Eucharist in their lives and that the Eucharist is the fulfillment of their initiation process (RCIA #243)