



# A Year with the Catechism

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*(In preparation for next week.)*

## **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (III)**

*How can water do such great things?* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is just plain water and no baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." *Titus 3:5-8*

### **Bible Passages**

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

*Mark 16:16a*

Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word. *Ephesians 5:25-26*

This water [of Noah's flood] symbolizes Baptism that now saves you also... It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 3:21*

### **Weekly Catechism Reading**

Psalm 40

p. 292 – Central Thought

p. 292-293 – Part 308

p. 294 – Part 309-310

p. 294-295 – Part 311

p. 295-296 – Part 312-313

p. 296 – Part 314-End



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## *Devotion*

### **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 55:10-11

### **Devotion**

Combine equal parts of bleach and water. Mix them together thoroughly. Now throw in one pair of blue jeans. What happens? The blue in the jeans is removed rather rapidly. If you were to put jeans in plain water, nothing would happen, but the water combined with the bleach is a powerful dye (or stain) remover. The water of Baptism has no power as water, but when it is combined with God's Word, it removes the most persistent stain of all, our sin. That is the purpose for which God has sent His Word. That is why He combines water and the Word in Holy Baptism. To bring that forgiveness to us in this visible and certain way.

### **Prayer**

Lord God, our heavenly Father, You combined Your Word with the waters of Holy Baptism to bring to us the grace of Your salvation. Help us to live in the forgiveness of our Baptism until we join You in life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.