

Living Into Our Baptismal Covenant: Walking Into Our Baptism



Water sprinkling like rain, falling from the sky in a downpour, or surrounding us in a sudden deluge is nothing but water--until it is caught up in the hands of the Church, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Here Word and water combine to become the powerful initiation sacrament of Baptism. But after Baptism...well, then what?

This course seeks to expand our baptized horizons as we consider four powerful implications that enable us to continually live more deeply into our Baptism. Baptism's gift is not only entrance into the church, but the roadmap and vehicle for the fundamental journey of ongoing depth into the life of Christ. In this course we will explore:

- The gift of *belonging*: personally adopted as we share in Jesus' sonship, communally connected as we receive our place in his Temple, Body, and Bride (Gal 4, Eph).
- The ongoing gift of *newness of life*: we are daily to confess our sins, taking our place once again in Jesus' death, and being raised again by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 6).
- The gift of *patience and endurance*: we, who have had our hearts sprinkled clean and our bodies washed with pure water are to learn to draw near and hold fast in hope (Heb. 10:22).
- The gift of *empowerment*: we are to "put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of our Creator" (Col 3).

As we reflect upon the grace-filled riches God continually pours out to us in this sacrament, may we be refreshed, empowered and focused to walk more fully into our Baptism--right in the midst of our every-day lives.