

Answers Taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

When is an Emergency Baptism allowed?

CCC 1284

In case of necessity, any person can baptize provided that he have the intention of doing that which the Church does and provided that he pours water on the candidate's head while saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

NOTE: "Any person" includes non-Christians and truly means anyone who intends to do what the Church intends and uses water properly with the Trinitarian formula given in CCC 1284).

CCC 1238

The Baptismal water is consecrated by a prayer of epiclesis (either at this moment or at the Easter Vigil). The Church asks God that through His Son the power of the Holy Spirit may be sent upon the water, so that those who will be baptized in it may be "born of water and the Spirit". Matthew 28:19-20

CCC 1223

After His resurrection, Christ gives this mission to his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." John 3:5

SEE MORE INFORMATION BELOW:

CCC 1277

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.

CCC 1279

The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal graces, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ.

What is Perfect Contrition?

A Perfect Act of Contrition

Oh my God! I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee
and I detest all my sins because
I have offended Thee, My God,
Who art all-good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace,
To confess my sins, to do penance,
And to amend my life. Amen.

CCC 1451

Among the penitent's acts contrition occupies first place. Contrition is "sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again."

CCC 1452

When it arises from a love by which God is loved above else, contrition is called "perfect" (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.

Answers Taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

What is Spiritual Communion?

Per Cardinal Burke:

For those who cannot have access to the Holy Mass and Holy Communion, I commend the devout practice of Spiritual Communion. When we are rightly disposed to receive Holy Communion, that is, when we are in the state of grace, not conscious of any mortal sin which we have committed and for which we have not yet been forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance, and desire to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion but are unable to do so, we unite ourselves spiritually with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, praying to Our Eucharistic Lord in the words of Saint Alphonsus Liguori: "Since I am unable now to receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart." Spiritual Communion is a beautiful expression of love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It will not fail to bring to us abundant grace.

An act of perfect contrition disposes our soul for Spiritual Communion.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that
You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if you were already there,
and I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

DEVOTIONS/PRAYERS

Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Prayer, "I Thirst"

It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there: waiting for even the smallest signal of your response, even the smallest suggestion of an invitation that will permit Me to enter. I want you to know that each time you invite Me, I do come always, without fail. Silent and invisible I come, yet with a power and a love most infinite, bringing the many gifts of My Spirit.

I come with My mercy, with My desire to forgive and heal you, with a love for you that goes beyond your comprehension. A love in each detail, so grand like the love I have received from My Father." I have loved all of you as the Father has loved me..." John 15:10. I come longing to console you and give you strength, to lift you up and bind all your wounds. I bring you My light, to dispel your darkness and all your doubts. I come with My power, that allows me to carry you: with My grace, to touch your heart and transform your life. I come with My peace, to calm your soul. I know you like the palm of my hand. I know everything about you. Even the hairs of your head I have counted. Nothing in your life is unimportant to Me. I have followed you through the years and I have always loved you even when you have strayed. I know every one of your problems. I know your needs and your worries and yes, I know all your sins. But I tell you again that I love you, not for what you have or ceased to do. I love you for you, for the beauty and the dignity My Father gave you by creating you in His own image.

It is a dignity you have often forgotten, a beauty you have tarnished by sin. But I love you as you are, and I have shed My Blood to rescue you. If you only ask Me with faith, My grace will touch all that needs changing in your life: I will give you the strength to free yourself from sin and from all its destructive power. I know what is in your heart, I know your loneliness and all your wounds, the rejections, the judgments, the humiliations, I carried it all before you. And I carried it all for you, so you could share My strength and My victory. I know, above all, your need for love, how much you are thirsting for love and tenderness. Yet, how many times have you desired to satisfy your thirst in vain, seeking that love with selfishness, trying to fill the void within you with passing pleasures, with the even greater emptiness of sin. Do you thirst for love?" Come to Me all you who thirst ... " (John 7:37). I will satisfy you and fill you. Do you thirst to be loved? I love you more than you can imagine ... to the point of dying on a cross for you. I THIRST FOR YOU. Yes, that is the only way to even begin to describe My love for you. I THIRST FOR YOU.

I thirst to love you and to be loved by you. So precious are you to Me that I THIRST FOR YOU. Come to Me, and I will fill your heart and heal your wounds. I will make you a new creation and give you peace even in your trials. I THIRST FOR YOU. You must never doubt My mercy, My desire to forgive,

My longing to bless you and live My life in you, and that I accept you no matter what you have done. I THIRST FOR YOU. If you feel of little value before the eyes of the world, it doesn't matter. There is no one that interests me in the whole world than you. I THIRST FOR YOU. Open up to Me, come to Me, thirst for Me, give me your life. I will prove to you how important you are for My Heart.

Don't you realize that My Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life, beginning from this moment? Trust in Me. Ask Me every day to enter and take charge of your life and I will. I promise you before My Father in Heaven that I will work miracles in your life. Why would I do this? Because I THIRST FOR YOU. All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself to Me completely. I will do all the rest. From this moment, now, I behold the place My Father has prepared for you in My Kingdom. Remember that you are a pilgrim in this life traveling back home. Sin can never satisfy you, or bring the peace you seek. All that you have sought outside of Me has only left you more empty, so do not tie yourself to the things of this world; above all, do not run from Me when you fall. Come to Me without delay because, when you give Me your sins, you give Me the joy of being your Savior.

As the rest of the psalm I was praying says of Me: "... I waited uselessly for compassion, I waited for someone to console me and I did not find it." (Psalm 69: 20). All your life I have been desiring your love. I've never ceased searching for your love and longing to be loved by you in return. You have tried many things in your goal to be happy. Why not try opening up for Me your heart, right now, more than you ever have before? When you finally open the doors of your heart and you finally come close enough, you will then hear Me say again and again, not in mere human words but in spirit: "No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake. Come to Me with your misery and your sins, with your problems and needs, and with all your desire to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and call...Open to Me, for I THIRST FOR YOU..."

There is nothing I cannot forgive and heal; so come now, and unburden your soul. No matter how far you have strayed without a destination, no matter how often you have forgotten Me, no matter how many crosses you bear in this life; I want you to always remember, one thing that will never change. I THIRST FOR YOU – just you, as you are. You don't need to change to believe in My love, for it will be your confidence in that love that will make you change. You forget Me, and yet I am seeking you every moment of the day – standing before the doors of your heart and calling. Do you find this difficult to believe? If so, look at the Cross, look at My Heart that was pierced for you. Have you not understood My Cross? Then listen again to the words I spoke there, for they tell you clearly why I endured all this for you: "...I THIRST" (John 19: 28) YES, I THIRST FOR YOU.

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady Devotion

The Blessed Virgin Mary has promised to grant seven graces to the souls who honor her daily by saying seven Hail Mary's and meditating on her tears and sorrows.

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady:

1. The prophecy of Simeon
(Luke 2:22-35)
2. The flight into Egypt
(Matthew 2:13-15)
3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple
(Luke 2:41-52)
4. Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary
(Luke 23:27-31)
5. Mary Stands at the Foot of the Cross
(John 19:25-27)
6. Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus into Her Arms (John 19:38-40)
7. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb
(John 19:41-42)

(There are seven sets of seven beads on the Seven Sorrows Rosary)

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, followed by an Act of Contrition and 3 Hail Mary prayers.
2. Pray "Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the Sorrows of Your Son, Jesus."
3. Meditate on the first Sorrow of Our Lady while praying an Our Father and 7 Hail Marys, followed by the "Most Merciful Mother" prayer.
4. Continue the same prayers with the remaining 6 sets of beads, meditating on the 2nd through 7th Sorrows...one for each set.
- 5 Concluding Prayers:

Pray:

Queen of Martyrs, your heart suffered so much. I beg you, by the merits of the tears you shed in these terrible and sorrowful times, to obtain for me and all the sinners of the world the grace of complete sincerity and repentance. Amen.

Pray three times:

Mary, who was conceived without sin and who suffered for us, pray for us.

End with:

The Sign of the Cross.

The Seven Promises:

1. I will grant peace to their families.
2. They will be enlightened about the divine mysteries.
3. I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work.
4. I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.
5. I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives.
6. I will visibly help them at the moment of their death, they will see the face of their Mother.
7. I have obtained from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy.

The Seven Sorrows Rosary/Chaplet

The 9 First Fridays Devotion of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

First Friday Requirements:

To meet the requirements for the First Friday Devotion a person must, on each First Friday for nine consecutive months:

1. Attend Holy Mass
2. Receive Communion
3. Go to Confession (within 8 days of the First Friday)

The communicant should have the intention, at least implicitly, of making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all the sinfulness and ingratitude of men.

Our Lord made these promises to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) regarding those who practice the Nine First Fridays and have a deep devotion to His Sacred Heart. The Twelve Promises listed below includes the "Great Promise" (number 12).

1. *I will give them all of the graces necessary for their state of life.*
2. *I will establish peace in their homes.*
3. *I will comfort them in all their afflictions.*
4. *I will be their strength during life and above all during death.*
5. *I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings.*
6. *Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.*
7. *Tepid souls shall grow fervent.*
8. *Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.*
9. *I will bless every place where a picture of my heart shall be set up and honored.*
10. *I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts*
11. *Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.*
12. *I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant all to those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."*

The Five First Saturdays Devotion

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady gave to Sr. Lucia dos Santos, one of the three Fatima visionaries, the Five Saturdays Devotion:

"See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me.

Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary."

On May 29-30, 1930, Jesus explained to Sr. Lucia why this devotion was to be offered on five First Saturdays. He told her, "Daughter, the motive is simple: There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies spoken against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

First: blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception

Second: against her Virginity

Third: against the Divine Maternity, refusing, at the same time, to receive her as the Mother of mankind

Fourth: those who seek publicly to implant, in the hearts of children, indifference, disrespect, and even hate for this Immaculate Mother

Fifth: those who revile her directly in her sacred images

"Here, dear daughter, is the motive that led the Immaculate Heart of Mary to petition Me to ask for this small act of reparation. And, out of regard for her, to move My mercy to pardon those souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek endlessly, with your prayers and sacrifices, to move Me to mercy in regard to these poor souls."

The Missionaries of Charity's Consecration Covenant with Mary

"Move by an ardent desire to live in the closest union with you possible in this life, so as to more surely and fully arrive at union with your Son; I hereby pledge to live the spirit and terms of the following Covenant of Consecration as faithfully and generously as I am able."

Mary's Duties

1. To give of her spirit and heart.
2. To possess, protect, and transform me.
3. To inspire, guide, and enlighten me.
4. To share her experience of prayer and praise.
5. Responsibility for my sanctification.
6. Responsibility for all that befalls me.
7. To share with me her virtue.
8. To provide for my spiritual and material needs.
9. Union with her heart.
10. To purify me and my actions.
11. Right to dispose of me, of my prayers and intercessions and graces.
12. Total freedom in and around me, as she pleases in all things.

My Duties

1. Total gift of all I have and am.
2. Total dependence on her.
3. Responsiveness to her spirit.
4. Faithfulness to prayer.
5. Trust in her intercession.
6. Accept all as coming from her.
7. Imitate her spirit.
8. Constant recourse to her.
9. Remembrance of her presence.
10. Purity of intention; self-denial.
11. Right to avail myself of her and her energies for the sake of the kingdom.
12. Right to enter into her heart, to share her interior life.

or "Be the one, with Mary."

Taken from *33 Days of Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC and from *Mother Teresa: In the Shadow of our Lady* by Joseph Landford, MC