

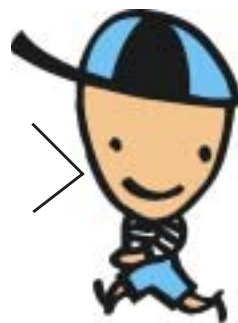


Hi! I'm going to be your guide on a fabulous trip through the **Holy Sacraments**.



Do you know what they are?

I'll give you a hint on the first **Sacrament**. It has to do with **water**.



I knew you'd guess it. It's the **Sacrament of Baptism**. In Baptism we are **immersed into the water 3 times!**

When we are baptized our **"Old Nature"** becomes clean and our sin is taken away. We put on a **"New Nature"**

which is in the Lord Jesus Christ. **That is why we wear white** after we are baptized.

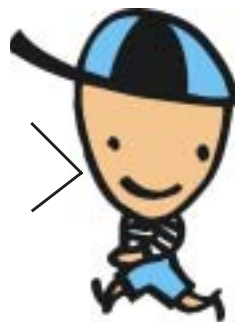
We became **clean and new again through baptism**. Just the way we were before Adam and Eve sinned in Paradise.





Why do you think we should go through all this trouble?  
Why do we have to be **baptized**?

Well, first of all, we all have sinned. The Holy Bible says that **no one is without sin**, even if he lived only one day. So we all need to become new. **Also, the Lord Jesus Christ** said that unless a man is born again, he **could not see** the Kingdom of Heaven. That means that if we don't get baptized, we **can't get into Heaven** and live with Him and the all the holy angels and saints.



Without being baptized we can't take the Holy Communion and we can't participate with the Holy Angels in the Eucharist Divine Liturgy because we are not clean enough to stand in the presence of the Lord.



When we are baptized we are also given the **Sacrament of the Holy Chrism** or the **Holy Maroon Oil**.

Without being baptized we can't take the Holy Communion and we can't participate with the Holy Angels

in the Eucharist Divine Liturgy because we are not clean enough to stand in the presence of the Lord.





If you are a boy, your parents **wait 40 days** after you are born and then take you to Abouna to be **baptized**. If you are a girl, your parents **wait 80 days** before they take you to be **baptized**.



When the right amount of time has passed, your parents take you to church where Abouna **prays over the water** and through those prayers the water is changed and becomes holy. **This is done in a mysterious way through the Holy Spirit**. That is what the Sacraments are, **an invisible mystery performed by the Holy Spirit**.

We can't see with our eyes what the Holy Spirit does but we know by faith that the **Holy Spirit changes the ordinary, like plain water, to the extraordinary, water that cleans the soul from our original sin**. This would not happen unless there are special prayers over the water.

Did you know that our Lord and **Savior Jesus Christ was baptized** when he was living with us on the earth 2,000 years ago? He was **baptized by St. John the Baptist**. He was baptized to show us how important it is to be baptized because as He said, *'Unless a man is baptized by the water and the Spirit he can not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'*

