

YEAR OF FAITH RITE FOR THE BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

This rite may be celebrated in all the churches of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to mark the beginning of the Year of Faith. At Mass, it takes the place of the usual Penitential Act at the beginning of Mass.

After the greeting, the Priest stands at his chair and faces the people. With a vessel containing the water to be blessed before him, he calls upon the people to pray in these or similar words:

**Dear brothers and sisters,
in this Year of Faith the Holy Father reminds us
that the journey of faith begins at Baptism.
So let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created,
which will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial of our Baptism,
and on our doors as the thresholds of faith.
May he help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.**

And after a brief pause for silence, he continues with hands joined:

**Almighty Lord and God,
who are the source and origin of all life,
whether of body or soul,
we ask you to + bless this water,
which we use in confidence
to implore forgiveness for our sins
and to obtain the protection of your grace
against all illness and every snare of the enemy.
Grant, O Lord, in your mercy,
that living waters may always spring up for our salvation,
and so may we approach you with a pure heart
and avoid all danger to body and soul.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

Afterward, taking the aspergillum, the Priest sprinkles himself and the ministers, then the clergy and people, moving through the church, if appropriate. Meanwhile, an appropriate chant is sung.

When he returns to his chair and the singing is over, the Priest stands facing the people and, with hands joined, says:

**May almighty God cleanse us of our sins,
and through the celebration of this Eucharist
make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom. R. Amen.**

The holy water may be used to bless the doors of the church at the end of Mass, or at the beginning of another Mass.

