

The Font

Wow! There was so much to learn with the baptismal font. I had been listening to the *Catechism in a Year* podcast which helped me to understand the Sacrament of Baptism more deeply. This is the sacrament by which we are restored to life. Jesus himself declared, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” Being baptized allows us to participate in the other sacraments – especially the Eucharist. Putting the font where we need to walk by it as we enter serves as a reminder of our baptism.

Our font is in the shape of an octagon. This is not a requirement, but most Catholic fonts are this shape. I first thought this was so that they could more easily be constructed with eight straight pieces of marble rather than having to create a perfect circle in the stone. But the shape has a deeper meaning. St. Ambrose taught that Christ rose from the dead on the day after the Sabbath - the eighth day - instituting a new creation. By our baptism, the grace of the Holy Spirit brings us into this new creation. The Holy Spirit is depicted as a dove on our baptismal font. The Holy Spirit “hovered over the waters” at the dawn of creation, and the Holy Spirit hovered above Jesus as he was baptized.

The document *Environment and Art in Catholic Worship* outlines the standards for Catholic churches. This document suggests the use of “living” water in the font. This is to symbolize what Jesus taught. Jesus tells the woman at the well that he will give living water, and he says, “Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘rivers of living water will flow from him.’” Our font recirculates the water, so there is always a ripple.

The font will be blessed at the Dedication Mass. Normally, the font is blessed every year at the Easter Vigil. Since we were not in our own church, we did not do that this year. It is one of the few items that is continually blessed.

I will be filled with a new sense of purpose when I bless myself before entering the sanctuary for Mass. 😊

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RESURRECTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH