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The Four Symbols of Baptism

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1. Water



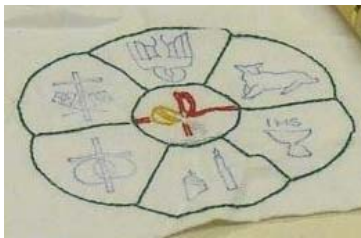
When we are baptized, the priest or deacon pours water over us, or we may be "dipped" into the baptismal font. The word "baptize" means "to dip." Water washes us clean. We go down into the waters of baptism with Jesus, and rise to new life with him.

2. Anointing with Chrism



Chrism is one of the three holy oils used in the Catholic Church. We are anointed with chrism at our baptism. The chrism has a wonderful smell to it. We will be anointed with chrism again at our confirmation.

3. White Garment



After we are anointed with chrism, we are clothed in a white garment. White is a symbol of purity and cleanliness. Our white baptismal garment shows that we are a "new creation", a new member of Christ's Body, the Church.

4. Light



We receive a lighted candle at our baptism. This candle is lighted from the Paschal (Easter) Candle in church. Jesus is the Light of the World. As baptized Christians, we spread the Light of Jesus to the whole world!