

# Holy Water



## Scriptural Rosary

In baptism, the sacrament of rebirth in Christ, we are not only freed from sins, but become a new creation, taken into the love of the Triune God. The blessing of water has been proven since early Christian times. The primal element water, which nature gives us so abundantly, becomes a blessing element, a blessing power for the Christian. It is removed from any influence on the part of evil spiritual principalities and forces, gives us the victory of light over the powers of darkness and becomes a source of blessings for grace, protection and help. The holy water should constantly remind us of our baptism, in which God made a covenant with us and opened the door to divine life for us. In believing use of the blessed water, we experience the fruits of this covenant again and again: redemption in Christ Jesus. Because God is faithful and he rewards the faithfulness of his believers. Saint Teresa of Avila confesses: "How great must the power of holy water be!"

The Church attributes the regular use of holy water to St. Pope Alexander I. (+115) because he obliged the priests to consecrate water every Sunday before Mass in order to sprinkle the faithful for their purification. He also tirelessly urged believers to bring it into their homes, which they never failed to do. And St. Cyprian (+258) says: "No one is surprised that we receive the Lord's grace when we sprinkle the sick with holy water. Doesn't the Holy Spirit say through the prophet Ezekiel: 'I want to pour pure water on you and you will be washed clean of all your flaws?'" Bishop Germanus von Auxerre (+448) quenched a terrible storm with holy water that he sprinkled on the angry waves of the sea.

The first missionaries came to Japan in the 16th and 17th centuries. In one of the reports can be read: "In order to heal these poor people, we give them no other remedy than the holy water. Everywhere its power is so well known that sick people come to us from 10 to 12 hours away." The Blessed A. K. Emmerick (+1824) had received the ability to perceive everything sacred through the external senses. She felt the consecration of the water through the taste and distinguished it from the unconsecrated as surely and as tangibly as another person the stone from the water. St. Peter of Alcantara (+1562) says: "Apparently minor remedies often have great power if it is God's will."

Recently, P. Bernhard Kunst has had many wonderful experiences with the exorcised water: A man came to confession and told me: "Father, I saved the life of a doctor!" Believing he spoke of having physically helped I meant: "This

can't be true! You are a retiree and 76 years old, how can you have saved the life of a young doctor?" "Yes, really, Father, this young doctor had a malignant cancer, so that his colleagues said: 'Even if we so much would like to help you, but this type of cancer is so aggressive, there is nothing to be done, it just eats you up!' When I heard that, I went to the doctor and made a suggestion: 'Doctor, God can also cure cancer. I still have half a can of holy water, I'll give it to you. Always pour a shot of holy water into the bath water and take a sip of this holy water every day. But give God the glory and pray: Jesus, by the force that works in the holy water, you can cause me to lose my cancer.' The young doctor followed everything exactly as I advised him. The doctor was healed quickly and today it has been six years. He no longer has cancer and is in excellent health. And so, Father, I saved the life of a doctor." (Quoted: Ingeborg und Horst Obereder, Holy Water)

Let us also follow the old custom, according to which every believing Christian sprinkles himself with holy water in the morning and evening, even every time he leaves home, and especially in temptations and dangers. Protect yourself and yours and all of yours again and again with the consecrated water, this powerful ecclesiastical sacramental! Let us give holy water to the poor souls every day. They feel the cleansing power of this water and the love with which it is given. How grateful they are! The consecrated water is like a refreshing dew for the poor souls.

We have to use the holy water with great confidence and the belief that God's power works in this water. But you cannot force God to work a miracle, it is always a humble request.

*Disperse the water and cross yourself:*

**B**y the power of God, which acts in this holy water, bless me, bless my whole family, ... my enemies and protect us from all evil, make us well again, ... – the almighty and merciful God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**W**ith all the blessings of heaven and earth bless me (you, this house, ...) through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all Angels and Saints – God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**O** God, do not look at my sins, my lack of faith and my lack of love and penance, but at the faith, love and merits of Your church – her head Jesus Christ, the Mother of God Mary and all Saints – and give me sinner graciously Your overabundant mercy. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, which acts in this water consecrated by Your Holy Church, give healing (make good, ...). Give that through it hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done! Amen.

**T**ake a verse from the Scriptural Rosary and use thereby the holy water in firm faith.

**E**cce aqua benedicta! Sit mihi salus et vita!

**S**ee the water consecrated, that gives me mercy and salvation!

Image credits

First Page: © Sister Mary Grace Thul, O.P.

Last Page: © Parish Church Hainersdorf (Colors edited)



## Note on the Scriptural Rosary

In its origin the rosary is a contemplative prayer. With the oral prayers we combine the accompanying meditation of the mysteries of salvation. The Scriptural Rosary wants to make a modest contribution to make this easier. To do this, it takes up the custom practiced at various places around the world, praying the rosary – bead by bead – connected with an inspiring passage from the Bible. Let yourself be sheltered in the motherly heart of Mary and immerse yourself in flowing streams of loving contemplation. With every Hail Mary, the words of God are planted in your heart. Live with Mary through the word that comes from the mouth of God!

Process of a decade: The *Lord's Prayer* is prayed first. Before each of the ten *Hail Marys* the respective, mostly biblical, quotation is read; at some points there are alternatives (a/b/c) to choose from. The Hail Marys are prayed without insertion. While you pray, let the words of the biblical reflection resonate in your mind, imagine the scene vividly, and think about its meaning. Proceed thus, bead by bead.

*"I am a fan of the Scriptural Rosary, because it makes the recitation of the rosary a lively experience."* Alex

*"Praying the Scriptural Rosary leads me to a special deepness that I can rediscover."* Monika

*"The Scriptural Rosary opens up to me the fullness of the mysteries of Our Lord Jesus Christ."* Michael

If you have had positive experiences with praying the Scriptural Rosary or using holy water, please share it with others: [www.biblischer-rosenkranz.at](http://www.biblischer-rosenkranz.at)

## The First Luminous Mystery

### Baptism of Jesus – Holy Water

Fruit: Protection and blessing / Renewal of baptism

Our Father...

1. The earth was formless and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. / And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. *Gen 1:2*

Hail Mary...

2. Now, when Jesus had been baptized in the Jordan, / the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. *Lk 3:21-22; Mk 1:9-10*

3. The Lamb will lead them to fountains of the water of life. / And whosoever wants to, receives the water of life as a gift. *Rev 7:17; 22:17*

3a. With joy you will draw water out of the wells of salvation. / I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean. *Is 12:3; Ezek 36:25*

4. And, behold, the water (Ez 47:2). / God hearkens to our prayer, and pours forth his blessing on this element. *Rituale*

4a. The Lord regards with favor this salt and water, / lets the light of his kindness shine upon it, and hallows it with the dew of his mercy. *Rituale*

5. This creature of water, is a water summoned in the name of the Triune God / for the salvation of the believers. *Rituale*

6. It concurs with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, / who is coming to judge both the living and the dead and the world by fire. *Rituale*

7. This creature of him is endowed with his grace, / to cast out demons and to banish disease. *Rituale*

8. This water is a medicine for body and soul / for all who make use of it. *Rituale*

8a. It is empowered, / to root out and banish the enemy himself, along with his fallen angels. *Rituale*

8b. So that wherever it is sprinkled and his holy name is invoked, every assault of the unclean spirit is baffled, / and all dread of the serpent's venom cast out. *Rituale*

8c. When this water is sprinkled in the homes of the faithful, they are delivered from all that is unclean

and hurtful; / no breath of contagion hovers there,  
no taint of corruption. *Rituale*

9. Us, who in awe and humility beg his mercy, / may  
the Holy Spirit be with wherever we may be. *Rituale*

10. Jesus says: All things you ask for with faith, / you  
will receive. *Mt 21:22*

Glory be...

God, who made the material world, uses it in many ways to convey his graces; so Jesus makes a porridge to stick to the blind man's eyes. See how the sanctified, luminous water brings blessings everywhere through the faithful use of the disciples. It is the blessing from baptism: healing, liberation, new creation!

(1) The mysterious connection between water and the Spirit is already revealed at the beginning of the Scriptures. (2) See, how at the baptism of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit descending upon him, the element of water is also sanctified, shining as a vehicle of graces. (4) See how in the holy water this stream continues to flow, with its graced effects, upon you and all those for whom you pray.

As an *alternative prayer option*, single verses can be chosen more often, while others are omitted. *Or*, as another alternative, the quotations may be read before the decade.



## Blessing of the Holy Water

### **Consecration of the salt**

*Exorcism.*

**V.** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**R.** Who made heaven and earth.

God's creature, salt, I cast out the demon from you by the living † God, by the true † God, by the holy † God, by God who ordered you to be thrown into the water-spring by Eliseus to heal it of its barrenness. May you be a purified salt, a means of health for those who believe, a medicine for body and soul for all who make use of you. May all evil fancies of the foul fiend, his malice and cunning, be driven afar from the place where you are sprinkled. And let every unclean spirit be repulsed by Him who is coming to judge both the living and the dead and the world by fire.

**R.** Amen.

Let us pray. – Almighty everlasting God, we humbly appeal to your mercy and goodness to graciously bless † this creature, salt, which you have given for mankind's use. May all who use it find in it a remedy for body and mind. And may everything that it touches or sprinkles be freed from uncleanness and any influence of the evil spirit; through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

## Consecration of the water

### *Exorcism.*

God's creature, water, I cast out the demon from you in the name of God † the Father almighty, in the name of Jesus † Christ, His Son, our Lord, and in the power of the Holy † Spirit. May you be a purified water, empowered to drive afar all power of the enemy, in fact, to root out and banish the enemy himself, along with his fallen angels. We ask this through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is coming to judge both the living and the dead and the world by fire. **R.** Amen.

Let us pray. – O God, who for man's welfare established the most wonderful mysteries in the substance of water, hearken to our prayer, and pour forth your blessing † on this element now being prepared with various purifying rites. May this creature of yours, when used in your mysteries and endowed with your grace, serve to cast out demons and to banish disease. May everything that this water sprinkles in the homes and gatherings of the faithful be delivered from all that is unclean and hurtful; let no breath of contagion hover there, no taint of corruption; let all the wiles of the lurking enemy come to nothing. By the sprinkling of this water may everything opposed to the safety and peace of the occupants of these homes be banished, so that in calling on your holy name they may know the well-being they desire, and be

protected from every peril; through Christ our Lord.  
**R.** Amen.

### **Mixture of salt and water**

*Now the priest pours the salt into the water in the form of a cross, saying:*

May this salt and water be mixed together; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.  
**R.** Amen.

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

Let us pray. – God, source of irresistible might and king of an invincible realm, the ever-glorious conqueror; who restrain the force of the adversary, silencing the uproar of his rage, and valiantly subduing his wickedness; in awe and humility we beg you, Lord, to regard with favor this creature thing of salt and water, to let the light of your kindness shine upon it, and to hallow it with the dew of your mercy; so that wherever it is sprinkled and your holy name is invoked, every assault of the unclean spirit may be baffled, and all dread of the serpent's venom be cast out. To us who entreat your mercy grant that the Holy Spirit may be with us wherever we may be; through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

*This is the traditional, powerful form of consecration from the Roman Ritual.*

