

## Children's Baptism

*Keep in mind the following:*

- Baptisms may be celebrated within or outside of Mass; celebrating outside of Mass may be prudent in the interest of keeping liturgies brief.
- During the Rite of Reception, the priest/deacon does not have to actually touch the child's forehead, but could make the sign of the cross "over" the child.
- The anointing with the oil of catechumens may be omitted. The "laying on of hands" that replaces the pre-baptismal anointing may also be omitted; the presider simply extends hands over the child while saying the prayer.
- Water is to be prepared in a pitcher or container for the baptism; it is not to be drawn out of a font or bowl. The water in the pitcher is blessed at the appropriate time and then is poured directly over the child's head and into a font/bowl for the baptism. After the baptism, the water is disposed of properly.
- The parents or godparents may take the baptismal garment and candle from a table, rather than being handed it by the celebrant or another minister.
- If a priest or deacon believes it necessary for health safety, an instrument (e.g. cotton swab) may be used for the post-baptismal anointing with Chrism.
- The *Ephphatha* rite (including the touching of the ears and mouth) may be omitted.