



# Parent Page Newsletter

For the parents of children in the CGS Atrium

April 2025

## Sacramental Preparation: The White Garment

*For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” – Galatians 3:26-27*

### Put On Christ

On the day of your child’s baptism, a white garment was given, a beautiful symbol to show that the baptized has 'put on Christ' and has risen with Christ. It symbolizes their new life in Christ, their citizenship in heaven, whose dwellers are frequently depicted in the New Testament dressed in white.

The celebrant prays the following at Baptism:

**N.**, you have become a new creation  
and have clothed yourself in Christ.  
May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity.  
With your family and friends to help by word and example,  
bring it unstained into eternal life.

**Amen.**



### A New Creation

The one who is baptized receives a new life, eternal life, which St. Paul called “illumination,” a life one receives in encountering the Risen Christ. The young child readily connects the light of the candle with another kind of light they have inside them. When we ask the question, “Is the light the risen Christ gives us just in a candle? Where do we carry his light?” Even three -and four-year-old children confidently respond: “In our heart.” Young children easily recognize that when we are baptized, we are full of light inside and out! The white garment allows us to wear the light of Christ that is inside of us on the outside.

As our children prepare to come to the Lord’s table, they continue to contemplate and enjoy the liturgical signs. This method of signs is made up of visible and tangible elements (a lit candle, a white garment, bread, wine) which point to and contain a reality beyond our senses. When we recognize the signs, we are drawn deeper into the mystery of God. The children see the white garment as a sign of the new creature dressed anew in Christ.

### Clothed yourself in Christ

When dressing an infant and baby, the parent is careful to move slowly, calmly and gently, softly talking with the child as they do so. Slow movements. When speaking, to look the child in the eyes. It is a moment of connection between the parent and child. As our babies grow, we invite them to take

part in the dressing process. We ask the child to raise their arms while dressing, we explain what we are doing, “Your arm goes here.”

Then, as our children reach the age to come to the Lord’s table, they may now be more capable of dressing themselves, yet as parents, we still clothe them with our love, our prayers, and look to find those moments of connection as they strive to grow in their understanding of what it means to put on Christ, to be more like Christ.

### **Christian Dignity**

We are created in God's image. We have worth and value. We are called to treat everyone, including ourselves with respect and kindness. In the atrium, the children grow in their understanding that we cannot love God while remaining indifferent to our neighbor.

In preparation to come to the Lord’s table for the first time, the children hear that Jesus used the same imagery in one of His parables, the Parable of the Loving Father,

*“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’” (Luke 15:22)*

The robe that the father places on his son restores the son’s dignity. It covers his son like a white garment, and it shows who the son belongs to, he belongs to his Father, just as the white garment shows we belong to God and are a part of the Church family. The children see in the symbol of the white garment the outward sign of our Christian dignity, which we received in Baptism. We were joined to Christ like a branch to the vine. The children want to remain, they do not want to be separated from Him.

### **Bring it unstained into eternal life**

White is the color of Light, the color worn for the celebration of the feast. In the Transfiguration, Christ’s vestments were revealed to be “whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.” (Mark 9:2-8) Through this white garment we symbolize our transformation into Christ, sharing in his glory.

The children show us the impact this proclamation has upon them, “An eight-year-old child, who was obviously enamored with his white garment, was told by a classmate that he had lied to his mother; whereupon he replied, ‘You have soiled your white garment.’” – from *I Am the Good Shepherd*, by Sofia Cavalletti.

The children know that by celebrating Reconciliation and Communion frequently, we remain on the Vine. Every stain of sin is washed away, and we look forward to joyfully bringing our garment unstained to the heavenly kingdom of everlasting life.

*In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the youngest children in the three- to six-year-old atrium learn about the **white garment** as a gift given at Baptism. In preparation for Reconciliation and Communion, the six- to nine-year-old children, prepare their own **white garment** that will be worn during the retreat and celebration of the Sacraments.*