

# Holy Angels Baptismal Font Update



Grace Lutheran Church  
Hockessin, Delaware

Have you ever nearly drowned? Have you ever stood in the ocean when a huge wave appears from no where and crashes over you? Ever jumped in a cool pool on a hot, summer day? Soaked in the tub with just your eyes and nose above the suds?

Such experiences teach us about the first sacrament. The word “baptism” comes from a Greek word, *baptizein*, literally meaning “to dip.” The early Church used this word to name the first sacrament because they knew how daring—how *dangerous*—it is to meet God in this way. For to be baptized is to die: “Do you not know,” the apostle Paul asks, “that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” Baptism is abandoning the old self, like peeling off dirty clothes before plunging into the bath. Baptism is the sinful self stuck like tires in mud; the brutal self smashed by a wall of water. But that is not all. To be baptized is to live. We come out of the waters of baptism as gentle and pruned-skin-clean as a newborn baby—born into a new, bigger family—the Church.

If Baptism is our death, the baptismal font is our *tomb*. If Baptism is our new life, then the font is our *womb*. A shallow bowl on a pedestal cannot be our tomb and our womb. It is the difference between a peck on the cheek and a kiss on the lips. Baptism, like all the sacraments, is an efficacious *sign*. The sign must be full and clear. That’s why we need a font that holds a lot of water.

That’s why Church law says the font be at least big enough to immerse a baby and large enough to immerse an adult. This is not theatrics. This is believing what St. Paul teaches us about Baptism.

Our new font will be designed of noble materials that will last for generations to come. The new permanent structure will feature a pool for baptism by immersion—the Church’s preferred method. It will provide a higher pedestal font for infant baptism. There will be a “living water” feature connecting the higher pedestal with the lower pool. The baptismal water will be re-circulated and kept clean and fresh.

Our font will look very similar to the font in the picture above. In person, the font is an impressive symbol to those entering the church building. The final design will complement the colors, design, and scheme of the church.

***Our current baptismal font fund is doing well thanks to the generosity of many. Currently, we need an additional \$15,000 to ensure that our baptismal font will be here for our target dedication date of April 23, 2011—the Easter Vigil.*** If you have already donated, thank you! If you have not yet donated, please consider this donation to the parish as a Christmas gift and/or a year-end tax-deductible contribution! Simply send your donation to the Parish Office or drop it in a designated envelope in the collection basket at Mass. **(Donations should be addressed: “Baptismal Font Project” ATTN: Stephen Adams; 82 Possum Park Rd., Newark, DE 19711).**

As we build our font, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will stir its waters so that all who die there are born anew. “River of glory, springs of our birth...we are born from the darkness and clothed in the light! We are bathed in the glory of God!”

Visit our website, [www.stjohn-holyangels.com](http://www.stjohn-holyangels.com), for more pictures!