

# Tridentine Community News

November 10, 2024 – Resumed Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

## *The Blessing of Holy Water*



This column and many other authors have long touted the benefits of Holy Water blessed using prayers from the Traditional Roman Ritual. Salt is exorcized and blessed, the water is exorcized and blessed, and then a prayer is said after the salt is added to the water. As with the traditional form of Baptism, these exorcisms are performed so that the people who are sprinkled or bless themselves with this water are ritually purified before the start of Holy Mass. Holy Water is customarily blessed in the sacristy prior to Sunday Mass, as the *Aspérge*s (sprinkling rite) is only done on Sundays. The blessing must be prayed in Latin; due to space limitations, here we present only an English translation:

✠ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

℟ Who made heaven and earth.

### EXORCISM OF THE SALT

Thou creature of salt, I purge thee of evil by the living ✠ God, by the true ✠ God, by the holy ✠ God, by the God Who ordered thee through Eliseus, the prophet to be cast into the water to cure its unfruitfulness. Be thou a purified salt for the health of believers, giving soundness of body and soul to all who use thee. In whatever place thou art sprinkled, may phantoms and wickedness, and Satan's cunning be banished. And let every unclean spirit be repulsed by Him Who shall come to judge the living and dead, and the world by fire. ℟ Amen.

Let us pray.

O Almighty, everlasting God! Humbly we implore Thy boundless mercy that Thou wouldst deign of Thy goodness to bless ✠ and sanctify ✠ this creature of salt which Thou has given for the use of mankind. May all that use it find in it a remedy for soul and body. And let everything which it touches or sprinkles be freed from uncleanness and assault from evil spirits. Through our Lord. ℟ Amen.

### EXORCISM OF THE WATER

Thou creature of water, I purge thee of evil 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, that thou mayest be water fit to brace us against the envious foe. Mayest thou be empowered to drive him forth and exile him together with his fallen angels by the power of

the selfsame Jesus Christ, our Lord Who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. ℟ Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, Who for man's salvation dost dispense wondrous mysteries with the efficacious sign of water, hearken to our prayer – pouring forth Thy benediction ✠ upon this element which we consecrate with manifold purifications. Let this creature serve Thee in expelling demons and curing diseases. Whatsoever it sprinkles in the homes of the faithful, be it cleansed and delivered from harm. Let such homes enjoy a spirit of goodness and an air of tranquility, freed from baneful and hidden snares. By the sprinkling of this water may everything opposed to the safety and repose of them that dwell therein be banished, so that they may possess the well-being they seek in calling upon Thy holy Name, and be protected from all peril. Through our Lord. ℟ Amen.

Here the priest puts salt in the water thrice 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. ℟ Amen.

✠ The Lord be with you.

℟ And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Author of invincible strength and King of an unconquerable empire, ever the gloriously Triumphant One! Who restrainest the force of the adversary, Who overcomest the fierceness of the devouring enemy, Who valiantly putteth down hostile influences! Prostrate and fearsome we beseech Thee, Lord, consider kindly this creature of salt and water, make it honored, and sanctify it with the dew of Thy sweetness. Wherever it is sprinkled in Thy Name, may devilish infection cease, venomous terror be driven afar. But let the presence of the Holy Spirit be ever with us as we implore Thy mercy. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God, eternally. ℟ Amen.

In contrast, the Ordinary Form rite of blessing of Holy Water omits the exorcisms and has a vastly abbreviated and simplified prayer:

The priest says the following prayer during Sunday Mass, at the beginning of the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water which may be used instead of the Penitential Act.

Dear brethren, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water He has created, which will be sprinkled on us as a memorial of our Baptism. May He help us by His grace to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

Almighty ever-living God, Who willed that through water, the fountain of life and the source of purification, even souls should be cleansed and receive the gift of eternal life; be pleased, we pray, to ✠ bless this water, by which we seek protection on this Your day, O Lord. Renew the living spring of Your grace within us and grant that by this water we may be defended from all ills of spirit and body, and so approach You with hearts made clean and worthily receive Your salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.