

Water

A glorious and lovely custom, the origins of the Easter bath that date back a little more than a thousand years, from the time that large numbers of eastern Europeans first accepted Christianity and were Baptized into the faith.

The custom takes many forms. It can be as sensuous as taking a warm, perfumed bath by candlelight. And it can be as silly as tossing water balloons on the unsuspecting.

Water is precious to Christians. It reminds us of the rivers of Paradise, the great flood and the Red Sea. In Baptism we are led safely to freedom. Baptismal waters are like a tomb. In them we die, are buried and are raised with Christ. The waters are like a womb. In them we are reborn.

Throughout Easter time, the 50 days from Easter until Pentecost, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord each January, and on the actual anniversary of your own celebration of the first Sacrament, remember and renew your Baptism. Ask parents and godparents what they can recollect about it. What mementoes can you find—your robe, candle, or certificate?

Set a bowl brimming with water on the kitchen table. Morning and night, take some water on your fingertips and make the Sign of the Cross as a pledge of Resurrection

