

BAPTISM - Object Symbolism

Shells:

Shells are often associated with baptism because baptisms used to be done near lakes, rivers, and seashores. For example, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. When people were baptized back then, shells would be used to pour the water over their heads.

Doves:

Since doves are white, they represent the purity of baptism through the Holy Spirit. Doves also represent peace and love. If you read about Jesus' baptism in Matthew chapter 3, you will hear that the spirit of God descended like a dove onto Jesus. This paints a perfect picture of his innocence and purity.

God's Word:

During baptisms, the pastor will make a sign of the cross with water and say "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Without these words, the water is just plain water. These words fulfill our promise to receive forgiveness and salvation.

Candles:

The baptismal candle is a symbol that Jesus, the light of the world, is with the person being baptized. The baptized person gets to take the candle home to remember it. In the bible, John the Baptist says that Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. This means that we receive God's presence as well as the strength to endure trials that come with being a follower of Christ.

Water:

Water is an important element in baptism that symbolizes the washing and renewal of the Holy Spirit as God places His name on us in our baptisms. Think about how all living things need water to survive. Similarly, nothing would exist without God. Thus, water and baptism are linked.

