

Attachment #11

INSTRUCTIONS ON CLEANING THE HOLY WATER FONTS

Routinely, Catholics upon entering and exiting, simply dip the tip(s) of the finger(s) of your right hand into the water and with the wet finger(s), sign themselves with a Cross; while mentally contemplating the words of blessings: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Few times however, do the faithful ever begin to think about how the holy water gets into the stoup; how often is the holy water changed; and does the stoup ever need to be cleaned. In short:

- The holy water in the church's need to be changed out **at least once a weekly**.
- And, yes the stoups do need to be cleaned out also, **at least once a weekly**.

Procedures:

- At the St. Michael Parish, the holy water in the stoups is changed out **before the first, scheduled weekend Mass**.
- In that the Church, no longer adds blessed salt to the holy water (which decades ago was part of the blessing of the water and was also a natural disinfectant agent against the growth of algae, mold, bacterial, etc., in the holy water container), the holy water containers do need to be cleaned out regularly.



NB: As a reminder, holy water is a blessed object, and the Church has a prescribed norm on how to dispose of used holy water: it needs to be poured into a potted plant (i.e., perhaps a palm tree) or taken outside and poured directly into the ground soil (i.e., it is returned to its natural elements). It may also be poured down the sacrarium (the special sink in the sacristy that's drainage pipe goes directly into the ground). At no time, is the holy water to be poured down or into the common drain.

- Once emptied, the font or stoup's plastic insert will need to be thoroughly cleansed/washed out with either dish soap or vinegar and then poured down the common drain.
- Once cleansed and towel dried, simply go to the larger, Holy Water bucket-type container, refill the plastic insert with fresh holy water to the top and replace in the wall-mounted stoup for use.



NB: Any water that is found in the larger, Holy Water bucket-type container is already blessed holy water for use.

(Current as of: 08/25/2021)