The Priest then blesses the baptismal water, singing this prayer with hands extended:

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world’s creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify; O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue; O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slav-
-ery to Phar-aoh, would prefigure the people of the bap-tized; O

God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was a-
nointed with the Ho-ly Spir-it, and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side a-long with blood, and after his Res-
urrection, commanded his dis-ci-ples: “Go forth, teach all na-tions,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Ho-ly Spir-it,” look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
and graciously un-seal for her the foun-tain of Bap-tism. May
this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Be-
got-ten Son, so that human nature, created in your im-age
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the
squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of new-born children through water and the Holy Spirit.

And, if the occasion so suggests, lowering the paschal candle into the water once or three times, he continues:

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, and, holding the candle in the water, he continues:

so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Then the candle is lifted out of the water, as the people acclaim:

Springs of water, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all for ever.
The Blessing of Water

If no one present is to be baptized and the font is not to be blessed, the Priest introduces the faithful to the blessing of water, singing:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received.

And after a brief pause in silence, he proclaims this prayer, with hands extended:

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed
your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert;

through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were
to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water,

which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration. Therefore, may

this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received,

and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and

sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water, while all sing:

Antiphon

Vi-di a-quam e-gre-di-én-tem de tem-plo, a lá-
te-re dex-tro, al-le-lú-ia; et o-mnes, ad quos
per-vé-nit a-qua i-sta, sal-vi fac-ti sunt et

Or:

Antiphon

I saw wa-ter flow-ing from the Tem-ple, from its right-hand side,
al-le-lú-ia; and all to whom this wa-ter came were saved and
shall say: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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