

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS

- What do you understand of Baptism and the effects of Baptism.
- How important is your Faith to you?
- Faith and your roles as parents and god-parents.
- Rites and Symbols of Baptism



As we begin, please take time to reflect on what the gift of Faith means to you.

- ❖ How do you, as parents and godparents, exercise this Faith?
- ❖ Does it just mean that you fulfill your Sunday obligation of attending Mass or is there something more to your Faith?
- ❖ Do you live your Faith?
- ❖ How do you intend to bring this child up in Faith?
- ❖ Faith needs nurturing. Are you in a position to nurture your child's Faith? If not, are you doing anything about it?

Baptism



One of the 7 Sacraments.
A Sacrament of Initiation.

It is the basis of the whole
Christian life.

Baptism is the first of the
sacraments that lays the
foundations of every Christian
life.

Through Baptism we are freed
from sin and reborn as sons
and daughters of God; we
become members of Christ;
are incorporated into the
Church and share in her
mission.

Baptise in Greek (baptizein)
means to 'plunge' or 'immerse'
into water.

The effects of Baptism

*In Baptism, your child becomes
one with Christ, he/she
becomes a Son / Daughter of
the Father entitled to call God,
Father!*

Effects of Baptism

1. Faith and the Community of Faith

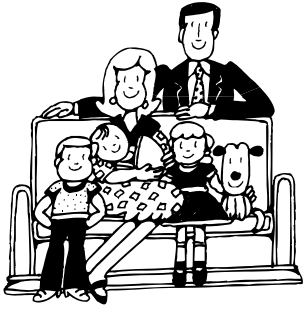
Baptism is the Sacrament of Faith and Faith needs a community of believers to exist and grow. So it is with utmost importance that your baby is brought up through, with and in the community of believers (Catholics). Each child baptised becomes a member of the 'Body of Christ', becomes part of the Church. Baptism gives your baby a community who cares and wants him/her to grow in Faith.

Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth. That is why the priest will ask you, Godparents this question. 'What do you ask of God's Church?' and your response is: 'Faith'

In the light of what has been said here, there is then no such thing as a 'Private Christian', no such thing as, I do not want to be a part of the community. As Parents and Godparents your duty is to ensure that this attitude does not exist in your child as he/she grows. Faith is like a treasure from God. We can only keep God's treasure if we offer it to others.

2. Forgiveness of Sins

Baptism gives your baby the grace whereby all his / her sins are forgiven, original and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. Nothing remains that would stop your child from entering the Kingdom of God. He / she is free to enter the Kingdom and enjoy eternal bliss with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, the baptised (your child), is not totally free, from suffering, illness, death and such frailties of life as weakness in character. It is left to us the parents, godparents and the community of faith to support and help your child to overcome these. (Gen 1: 1-7)



Role of Parents

- ✓ Know your values
- ✓ Teach the values
- ✓ Live the Values
- ✓ Parenting Together
- ✓ Life Skills
- ✓ Share & Nurture Faith Practice & Growth

Role of Godparents

- ✓ Constant Contact
- ✓ Assist Faith Formation
- ✓ Praying for Godchild



Priest:

Pope John Paul II - We exercise our priesthood by receiving the sacraments, by prayer and thanksgiving, by the witness of a holy life and by self denial and active charity

Prophet:

Pope Paul IV: Evangelii Nuntiandi (59) - But who then has the mission of evangelizing? It is upon the Church that "there rests, by divine mandate, the duty of going out into the whole world and preaching the Gospel to every creature. And in another

text: "the whole Church is missionary and the work of evangelization is a basic duty of the People of God"

3. A New Creature

Baptism makes your baby 'a new creature', 'a partaker of the 'divine nature', member of Christ and co-heir with him, temple of the Holy Spirit; Son or Daughter of God the Father. Imagine! Your child is the Son or Daughter of God the Father himself. How special and loved he/she is by God himself. God himself comes and claims your child as his own out of love for him/her.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit come to dwell in your child at Baptism. Your child becomes the home of the Holy Trinity. Your child becomes 'holy'

The Holy Spirit then gives your child the power to live and act under His prompting and allows him/her to grow in goodness through the moral virtues which you as parents and godparents will impart and teach him/her.

4. Called to be Priest, Prophet and King

The rite of 'anointing with sacred chrism' incorporates your child into Christ who is *priest, prophet and king*.

Priest:

Jesus is the intermediary between God and Man. He is the one who offers true worship to the Father. By our baptism, we are all called to participate fully in liturgical celebrations e.g. in Mass, to partake in Holy Eucharist and assist the priest as servers, readers, commentators, singing in the choir etc



Prophet:

Jesus teaches us to speak the Truth in all circumstances and as a prophet, he proclaims God and speaks for him. Just as Jesus was a prophet in sharing his life and love he has for his Father, we too as prophets are called to live our lives out of love for our Father in Heaven. We also need to bring others into a relationship of life and love with their Father in Heaven, upholding Truth at all times and readily speaking about our Faith.
(cf Romans 10:14)

King:

Jesus is the one who rules by serving others. (The Servant King). We too need to be humble in our approach in dealing with others and in bringing up our children.



rites and symbols

1. Sign of the Cross

Marks the imprint of Christ himself on your child. He / she belongs to Christ. It also signifies the grace of the redemption Christ has won for all of us by his Cross.

2. Proclamation of the Word

The word of God enlightens us with the revealed Truth and asks us to respond in Faith

3. Baptismal Water

This water is blessed by the priest and the pouring of the water over the forehead of your child signifies the washing away of sin. This cleansing brings death to sin. Your child is now pure and white as snow. This cleansing brings your child into the life of the Most Holy Trinity.

4. Anointing of Sacred Chrism

Sacred Chrism is the perfumed oil which is consecrated by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass. This anointing signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to your child; he/she is incorporated into the Body of Christ. All baptised thus share in the triple role of Priest, Prophet and King.

5. White Garment

This symbolises that your child when baptised has 'put on Christ' (who is Purity, Truth and Love)

6. Lighted Candle

The candle is lit from the Easter Candle. This is to remind us parents and godparents that Christ has enlightened us in Baptism and we are to be that 'light of the world' starting with your children who will be baptised.

Some Websites to help you get started in Family Prayer.

<http://www.richlogos.com>

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/watch.html>

<http://members.aol.com/spfldcath/bpolicy.html>

www.catholicdoors.com/courses/baptism.htm

www.spphoboken.com/godparent.htm

<http://catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0233.html>

