

Preparing for Baptism

EXAMPLE

Baptismal Class (2nd Monday of every month; 1.5 hours)

1. Introductions
2. Gathering Prayer
3. Why You Have Chosen to Have Your Child Baptized?
 - a. Family Tradition
 - b. Desire for Faith
 - c. Because it's what you're supposed to do
 - d. Presenter uses the book, "The Happiest Baby on the Block"
 - i. Found that most parents have read it or seen the video
 - ii. About the 4th trimester – out of the womb
4. Review the Rite
 - a. Statement and Promises of Parents
 - i. Demonstrates the Church's respect for the parents and starts the beginning of a deeper relationship with Church.
 - ii. Honors natural law.
 - iii. Naming of the child by those that begot them.
 - b. "Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"
 - i. What you do in your home and how you demonstrate God's love is very important.
 - ii. How you live that out as family is crucial to the wellbeing of your child, your family, and you as parents.
 - c. Blessing of Child
 - i. Parents and godparents are invited to make the Sign of the Cross on the child's forehead.
 - ii. The Church is showing parents this new way of connecting with their child that brings holiness and Godliness into the family through this one gesture.
 - d. Water . . . Immersion, Pouring Over the Head
 - i. The water is blessed.
 - ii. The symbol of cleansing.
 - iii. The symbol of dying with Christ and Rising to new life – new beginning in relationship with Jesus.
 - e. Sacred Chrism...Becoming Deeper in Relationship with Jesus
 - i. Applying the Sacred Chrism – the essence of Jesus.
 - ii. The sweet smell of Jesus.
 - iii. The commitment on God's part is forever.
 - f. Candle...The Light of Christ

- i. The last symbol of baptism is receiving the light of Christ.
 - ii. Walking in relationship with Jesus through parents and godparents.
5. Developing Deeper Faith and Relationship with God in the Family
 - a. Examples
 - b. Sharing of family traditions.
6. Concluding Prayer

Other Considerations...

1. Build a Team – this raises the importance of preparation, Baptism and faith development.
2. When are you scheduling your class? Is it convenient for your families?
3. Are you taking into consideration any language concerns?
4. Do parents bring their child?
5. How long does your class last?
6. Are you treating parents as adults?
7. How big is your group? How big is too big?
8. How could mentor couples work for Baptism as they do for Marriage?