

PRESENTER'S GUIDE

Your Baby's Baptism

Welcome to God's Family

SUMMARY

In this DVD, the basic elements of the rite of baptism are demonstrated. Some of the optional elements—for example, immersion—are not fully treated, so you may wish to further explain and demonstrate them. The companion booklet (see Recommended Resource) addresses the most commonly asked questions about baptism as well as problems new parents face.

Before Jesus ascended, he told his disciples, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). This tradition continues today, more than two thousand years later.

Baptism is the first sacrament Catholics experience. Through baptism, we are initiated into God's loving family. Once we enter God's faith community, we can begin our journey of faith.

We look to the Church for guidance, and we want our children to look to the Church in the same way. Through the sacrament of baptism, our sins are forgiven and a child enters God's family.

Baptism is the celebration of life. When we bring a child before the members of our faith community, we ask them to help us celebrate our new member and to help us grow together in the faith and love of God.

CONTENTS

- The Sacrament of Baptism
- Holy Water and the Font
- Liturgy of the Word
- Intercessions and the Litany of the Saints
- Prayer for Protection (Exorcism) and Anointing
- Blessing of Water
- Baptismal Promises
- Symbols
- Frequently asked questions

Special Features

- Welcome message from Most Reverend Robert Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis
- Lisa Hendey, creator of CatholicMom.com and the Catholic Mom Moments blog and podcast, explains the importance of parents as the first teachers of the faith.

HOW TO USE THIS DVD

- It can serve as an introduction to your baptism-preparation program.
- It can be viewed by new parents and godparents individually or together for group discussion.
- It can be used as a visual aid as you “walk through” the rite of baptism.
- It can be used to explain the stages and symbols of the rite of baptism.

GOALS OF THIS DVD

- To help parents understand the importance of baptism in their own lives and in the life of their baby.
- To help parents and godparents understand the stages and symbols of the rite of baptism.
- To help parents and godparents understand their roles in the spiritual upbringing of the child.
- To address the most commonly asked questions concerning baptism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following can be used as individual reflection questions or for small-group discussion.

1. What are some of the responsibilities parents and godparents assume after the baby is baptized?
2. What do the symbols of baptism (water, oil, white garments, and Easter candle) signify?
3. What does it mean to become a member of God's family?
4. Why do we baptize infants?
5. How can the parents' parish community create a Christian atmosphere for the child as he or she grows up?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

The companion booklet, also called *Your Baby's Baptism*, addresses practical questions that concern parents and sets the scene for personal parish instruction. The colorful magazine-style booklet is easy to use and appeals to today's parents.

16 page • 8.5 x 11 • #825385

Companion Leader Guide: 24 page • 8.5 x 11 • #825392



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