

Your Baby's Baptism

User's Guide

Program Note

In this DVD, the basic elements of the rite of baptism are demonstrated. Some of the optional elements—for example, immersion and baptism during Sunday Eucharist—are not fully treated, so you may wish to further explain and demonstrate them. The companion booklet (see Recommended Resource on page 2) addresses the most commonly asked questions about baptism as well as problems new parents face.

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.

Summary

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, over 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.

The Goals of the 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 different 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

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.

Topics include

- Why Baptism?
- Before the Baptism
- Questions People Ask
- The Baptism Service
- Early Days of Family Life
- You and God
- The Best Prayers
- How Your Child Learns

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