

Family Preparation for the Baptism of their Child

Reflection 2 This is our Faith

Invite all members of the family to participate

Parents: Welcome all and explain that over the next few weeks they will be preparing at home for the Baptism of... name of the baby.

Let's begin: In this reflection we will focus on the Apostle's Creed which we will profess at the Baptism of our child. Before this, the Godparents of our child will be asked:

1 Are you ready to help the parents of... in their duties as Christian parents?

- Discuss together: What do we expect of the Godparents of ... our child? WHY? (see: **Note on Godparents below**)
- (It may be possible to include the future Godparents in this discussion)
- Do they share our Faith and Hope for... our child?



***This is our Faith... the Faith of the Church...
in which our Child... will be Baptised***



There are a number of signs that indicate the faith into which our child... is to be Baptized. These are listed below:

Let's talk to each other about the importance of these:

1. Proclaiming the Gospel, the word of Jesus. Have you a particular Gospel passage that you would like read. Maybe you can find it in the Gospel and read it to one another.
2. Prayers for your child and all involved in his/her life.
3. Calling on the Mary, Mother of Jesus, and the saints to be present and pray with us.
4. Our child... will be anointed to strengthen him/her for life as a follower of Jesus.
5. The Baptism water is solemnly blessed in the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***Pray the Lord's Prayer together.
Include "For the Kingdom ..." at the end.***



2. Do you...? Discuss what you mean if you say "Yes" or "No" to each of these questions:

Do you and the Godparents of your child.....

- ***Reject Satan and choose Jesus?***
- ***Reject the works of Satan and his promises and choose the works and promises of Jesus?***
- ***Believe in God the Father?***
- ***Believe in Jesus Christ his only Son – born of the Virgin Mary, his life, teaching, death on the Cross, his Resurrection and his return to the Father?***
- ***Believe in the Holy Spirit?***
- ***Believe in the Holy Catholic Church?***
- ***Believe in our link or communion with the saints in heaven?***
- ***Believe that our sins can be forgiven?***
- ***Believe that we will rise again to everlasting life?***

*** This is a long list. You may need to take more time over it. (Perhaps on another occasion).

***It is particularly important especially in the case where the parents of the child are not both Catholics.

Note regarding the choice of Godparents:

- ***Godparents are chosen by the family.***
- ***They are also REPRESENTATIVES of the Church.***
- ***At least ONE Godparent is required.***
- ***This Godparent must be a PRACTISING Catholic.***
- ***The presence of other relatives and friends is welcomed.***