

Family Preparation for the Baptism of their Child
Reflection 4 After The Baptism of Our Child
Invite all members of the family to participate



Congratulations, Parents, Siblings, Godparents, other Family Members and Friends on the coming Baptism of your Child.

Thank you for taking the time with your family for these sessions.

Parents: Welcome all and explain that this is the final session preparing, or reflecting at home, for the Baptism of... name of the baby.

1. Reflection Time:

For a few moments take your Bible and slowly read together the following from Verses 13 to 15 of Psalm 139. (In some Bibles it will be Psalm 138).

*It was you who created my inmost self,
And put me together in mother's womb;
For all these mysteries I thank you:
For the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works.
You know me through and through,
when my bones took shape,
when I was being formed in secret,
knitted together in my mother's womb.*

Discuss or share:

What do these verses of the Psalm say about yourselves?
What are they saying about your child?

Discuss or share:

*How real is God for you? How real is Jesus for you?
How real will Jesus be for your child?*

With your child you will ALWAYS speak of JESUS

This is OK with God because he sent Jesus his Son to be our brother and speak to us. Make Jesus REAL for your child.

PICTURES IN YOUR HOME:

- ❖ *Jesus with the children*
- ❖ *Jesus the Good Shepherd...*

HAPPY STORIES of Jesus

- ❖ *The Christmas Story - especially the BABY Jesus, Mother Mary, St Joseph, the shepherds and angels...*
- ❖ *As time goes by other stories will suggest themselves.*

NOTE: *Your own gentle relationship with JESUS will pass on to your child.*

MAKE JESUS PART OF YOUR FAMILY: *Your child will get to know Jesus as easily as he/she gets to know the other members of your family. Eventually as you bring your child to Church he/she will meet Jesus in other ways.*

Discuss aspects of the above for yourselves, and for your family.

In **Baptism** your child receives the first of the **THREE Sacraments of Christian Initiation.**

The Other **TWO** are **Holy Communion (Eucharist)** and **Confirmation.**

Your child has a right to be thoroughly prepared for these Sacraments and for the continued living of the Christian Life.

Your parish will have a programme for these, extending from childhood to teens.

These programmes expect that you co-operate with them through your home faith. God needs you for a long, long time!!!

Discuss How You Can Do This.

Pray Psalm 139:13-15 (above) for your child and yourselves,