

Infant Baptism Preparation Resources

- Beginning the Journey: From Infant Baptism to First Eucharist. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1994.

This book is intended to be of assistance to parents, catechists, and teachers as they guide the development of the spiritual life of children from its beginning until the time of First Eucharist. The authors know this is a sensitive and fruitful time for formation and that children have a special capacity for things of the spirit.

- Bowman, Peg. At Home with the Sacraments: Baptism. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1991.
- Coffey, Kathy. Baptism and Beyond – Leader Guide. (Sessions for Parents) Denver, CO: The Morehouse Group, 2000.

Contains everything a leader needs to lead two parent sessions. Includes 6 reproducible letters to send to the parents, keeping them in touch with the parish and encouraging them to work with their child at home. Compliments the Parent Guide that parents use for preparation and follow-up to the two sessions.

- Baptism and Beyond - Parent Booklet. (Preparing for Baptism) Denver, CO: The Morehouse Group, 2003.

This concise booklet provides parents with a thorough background and understanding of the sacrament of baptism. Helps parents confidently prepare for their child's baptism celebration and explains the symbols and scriptures of baptism and coordinates with the Leader Guide.

- Baptism and Beyond - Parent Guide. (Preparing for Baptism and Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality) Denver, CO: The Morehouse Group, 2000.

This book helps parents to first understand the sacrament of baptism and then to develop skills to foster the spiritual development of their child in the years between baptism and First Eucharist. Parents are encouraged to use the guide as an interactive journal and memory book during the initial, formative years of their child's life.

- Coleman, William L. and Patricia Coleman. God's Own Child Kit: A Program for Parents Welcoming Their Child into the Christian Community. (Best in Marriage and Baptism Preparation) Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994.

God's Own Child is an appealing, proven, hands-on, adaptable resource for the pre-baptismal program in your parish. It works equally well for parents who are newcomers, returning Catholics, or regular parishioners. It is easy to use and can be incorporated easily into existing parish schedules.

This God's Own Child kit contains 12 Parent Books and 2 Leader's Guides.

God's Own Child, Parent's Book: A Book for Parents Welcoming Their Child into the Christian Community – Leader Guide. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994.

God's Own Child, Parent's Book: A Book for Parents Welcoming Their Child into the Christian Community – Parent Book. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994.

- Dugger, Julie. A Catholic Baptism. (A Welcome Series Pamphlet) Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications.

This series is written for those who find themselves attending a Catholic ceremony but are unacquainted with what they are experiencing. Each of these attractive and informative leaflets gives a brief history and description of the sacrament or ceremony it covers, and its rituals. Basic Catholic terms are also defined. Each leaflet includes a "How to Participate" section that answers frequently asked questions like who can receive holy Communion; what to do for those can't or don't want to kneel; when it's okay to take photos; how to handle children during the ceremony; and more.

- Fitzgerald, Tim. Infant Baptism: A Parish Celebration. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

This book challenges everyone who prepares the liturgy of Infant Baptism to understand it is the action of the community that begets new believers. The author applies the standards of full, conscious and active participation of the assembly; the word proclaimed and preached; the integration of music and ritual; and the abundant use of symbols, gestures and movements to the *Rite of Baptism of Children*.

- Gallagher, Rosemary. Your Baby's Baptism – Guide. (*El Bautismo de su bebe* -Spanish edition) Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2004.

This 16 page popular guide deals with the practical questions that concern parents and sets the scene for personal parish instruction. The full-color, magazine-style format is easy-to-use and appeals to today's parents. It covers such topics as: the baptism service, common questions people ask, practical suggestions on family life, and more.

- Leubring, Carol. Your Child's Baptism. (Handing on the Faith Series) Cincinnati, Ohio: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2000.

The far-reaching and clearly formed insights in *Your Child's Baptism*, will help parents as they prepare for the simple—and yet complex—beginning of their child's life in Christ. This book is a revised edition of the popular *What Do You Ask for Your Child?*

- Merhaut, Jim. A Guide for Godparents. (Pamphlet) Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications.

Being a godparent is a way for each generation to pass on the values of faith to the next generation. This pamphlet will help parents and godparents understand the importance of undertaking this role and that it lasts a lifetime. Focusing on the responsibilities of a godparent from invitation to sponsor through the first years, this pamphlet will be a valuable resource to guide godparents with their responsibility of spiritual nurturing.

- Nelson, Gertrud Mueller. Child of God. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 1997.

This book grows as a child grows. From birth through age six and all the growing days in between, *Child of God* provides the perfect place to gather thoughts, prayers and memories. It also makes a wonderful tool for baptismal preparation program directors and parents as it follows along the beginning years of raising a child in faith. Most pages open with a short sentence or two from scripture or traditional Christian prayers, accented with bits of art. Capture baby handprints and footprints, photos, newspaper clippings, a lock of hair, a lost tooth. Record poignant stories, special drawings, dates of sacraments received and pieces of family history.

Godparents and grandparents will also find places to contribute. After the pages are filled, put this book away and later present it to a grown child as a special gift.

- Ramshaw, Elaine. The Godparent Book. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 1993.

This book offers an abundance of ideas for things that godparents and godchildren can do from before Baptism through adulthood. Included are suggestions for building the relationship by sharing the memories, thoughts, values, prayers, and seasons of Christian life.

- Turner, Paul. Your Child's Baptism. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2009.

What should parents know as they prepare to have their child baptized? This book provides parents with answers to their most frequently asked questions and addresses their most frequently voiced concerns. Topics include the age of the child, parental consent, church attendance habits, qualifications for eligibility to serve as a godparent, the number of godparents, non-Catholic godparents and proxies, and more. The Rite of Baptism is also outlined. Keep copies of this well-priced book on hand to give to new or expecting parents and those inquiring about Baptism. Great for baptismal preparation programs.

- We Believe and Celebrate Baptism Family Book. (Leader's Guide available) Spanish version: Creemos y celebramos Bautismo. New York, NY: Sadlier, 2009.

The Family Book is designed to guide parents, godparents and family as they prepare for the baptism of a child or godchild, as they celebrate the sacrament together and as they continue to nurture the faith of the child.

CD/Videos/DVD

- Your Baby's Baptism – (DVD: 20 minutes; Liguori Publications, 2004) (El Bautismo de su bebe – DVD Spanish edition)

Viewers watch as Father Joe Kempf helps a gathered assembly celebrate the Rite of Baptism. Depicts baptism by pouring, immersion, and baptism during Sunday Mass. (Downloadable User's Guide.)

- Rojcewicz, Rebekah, ed. Baptism Is a Beginning: Bilingual Reproducible Handouts for Infant Baptism Preparation. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 2009.

This book with CD-Rom provides parishes materials to prepare parents and families, godparents, and sponsors for the Baptism of a child and for continuing support and formation after the Baptism. Eighteen different pamphlets can be reproduced for distribution to families and are enriched by the insights of Sophia Cavaletti, founder of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

- Sacrament of Baptism - (DVD: 26 minutes; Twenty-Third Publications, 2003) (*The Sacraments Past and Present Series*)

This is a wonderful way to learn about the history and development of the sacrament of baptism--from Hebrew times to post Vatican II. This presentation offers Catholic adults a better understanding of the valuable place of sacramental celebrations in today's world. This DVD is excellent for RCIA, sacrament preparation for parents, catechist formation, and adult study groups. Kathleen Chesto is easy to listen to and very informative.