



### The Sacrament of Baptism



The Rite of Baptism commences with two critical questions:

- (1) What name do you give your child?
- (2) What do you ask of God's Church for your child?

#### **In response:**

firstly, the parents give their newborn infant the identifying Christian name he/she will be known by, throughout life here on earth and into eternity.

Secondly, the parents declare their specific desire to have their child brought into God's family, given a share in God's life, and the opportunity and grace to reach eternal happiness in God's

home in heaven.

***This desire implies the acceptance of the responsibility of training the child in the practice of the faith.***

### WHAT TO DO

Step 1:

Contact the [priest](#) to make arrangements

#### Step 2: Preparation Programme

Prior to the day of the baptism, parents and godparents are invited to attend a pre-baptism programme in the parish meeting room. This programme is computerised and timed to last approximately fifty minutes.

The topics covered relate to the role of parents, the selection and role of godparents, formation of the child in the home, the school and the parish. Most important of all, the programme dwells on the initiation of the child into the very life of Christ - an event of huge importance for the child, now and in his/her future formation in the ways of faith.

#### Step 3: The Day of the Baptism



Richard and Mrs. Smith were baptized on the 10th of May, 1900, when the priest

was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Smith, who was the father of the child. The baptism was performed in the church of St. John the Baptist, and the child was named after the saint.