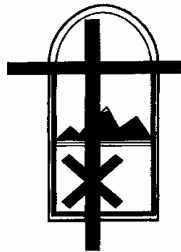




10. **The Baptismal Candle:** lighted from the Paschal Candle, it symbolized the “Light of Christ” which will shine on and through the child for life. It reminds parents of the baptismal promise to take the light into the world by utilizing their God given gifts and nurturing the child’s gifts

- C. The Baptismal Register — This is the official, permanent recording of Baptism of the child. A certificate of Baptism is issued — a formal document saying that the child is now officially accepted in the Catholic Christian Community

Session Five — Interview with Pastor



St. Andrew— Apostle, Martyr, Brother of St. Peter.
Believed crucified on an “X” shaped cross
in Patras, Greece.
Feast, November 30th

Baptism Program



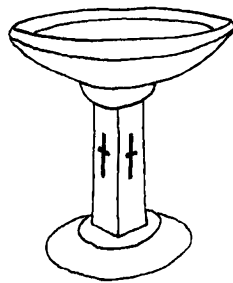
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

St. Andrew’s Catholic Community
1399 San Felipe Dr
Boulder City NV 89005
(702) 293-7500 Fax (702) 293-4419

Session One — Introduction and Overview

I. Introduction

- A. Registration
- B. Purpose of Baptismal sessions
 - 1. Review and evaluation of personal relationship with God and meaning of belonging to the Catholic Christian Community.
 - 2. Defining of community, faith, spirituality, sacrament, Christian, church, ritual, Baptism
- C. Why Baptism — It's About Belonging
 - 1. Feelings surrounding pregnancy and birth
 - 2. Adjustments and Expectations
 - 3. Mystery and challenge of new life to care for
 - 4. Meanings of being named



- 6. **Adults renunciation of sin and Profession of Faith:** a sign of continuous commitment to Baptismal promises and support as Body of Christ
- 7. **Baptism:** Immersion three times while the words of Baptism are pronounced by the presider. This is the dying to ego control (selfishness) and initiation into relationship. The Trinitarian relationship reminds us of the sacred number “3” which is process — the child will continue to grow and deepen the personal relationship with god and community. The immersion is also symbolic of purification and renewal
- 8. **Anointing with Chrism:** Christ means “anointed one” and means that the child will eventually become another Christ in the world. The anointing signifies the royal priesthood of the newly baptized and her/his enrollment in membership of the Christian community
- 9. **Clothing with white garment:** symbolized that the child is now a *new* creation clothed in Christ. It also reminds us of the white cloth pall covering the casket in Catholic funerals when the child will die physically and rise to new life after death. The white garment is an outward sign of Christian dignity, new life or Resurrection

the

Session Four — Signs and Symbols of Baptism

I. The Day of Baptism

A. **Preparation** of entire family and extended family for this special celebration

1. Festive spirit
2. Clothes and invitations for meal or open house
3. Create a tradition in your family

B. The meaning in the Rite itself and Content of Ritual action

1. **Welcoming:** a warm reception to you and your family from the presider on behalf of the Christian Community
2. **Naming:** the presider asks what name you have given your baby
3. **Prayer of Exorcism:** prayers to free the child from the power and influence of Evil. This freedom is one of the great gifts of Baptism. This child's life in this faith community will be one where the child's goodness is called forth through the love and support of these believers
4. **Anointing with the Oil of Baptism:** a sign of Christ's strengthening power and a symbol of the child's royal personhood
5. **Blessing of the Baptismal Water:** symbolic of the font as the *waters of life*

II. Parental Role and Sharing Values

A. Personal integration of what it means to be a Christian

B. Models of Christian in personal journey of faith

C. Role models now and value of these people in our lives

D. Role of Parent

1. Awareness of personal values to be passed on and dysfunctional patterns
2. Emphasis of personal values (respect for creation, dignity of personhood, trust, caring, love, giving and sharing, forgiveness, etc.)
3. Impact of parents on children
 - a. Words vs Example (fairness, competition, cooperation in family, encouragement, shared roles)
 - b. Family system influences community and society in general (commitment to others, relationship skills, consumerism, poverty, addictions, violence vs compassion, peace, justice, sexuality and spirituality, etc.)
 - c. Importance of passing on healthy traditions (holidays, celebrations, old recipes, etc.) and eliminating dysfunctions

(scapegoating, verbal and physical abuse, controlling and co-dependent behaviors, etc.)

Session Two — Christian Parenting and Faith Community

I. The Faith Community as support system for families and individuals

- A. Faith Community — Give and Take
 1. What does community mean to you?
 2. What does the Catholic Community offer? Expect?
 3. What are some experiences you have had of church community?
- B. Sacrament as sign
 1. Sacraments celebrate the values of Jesus — a way of life
 2. Baptism as celebrating new relationships — **define relationships**
 - a. Child and Christ — new life, new creation
 - b. Child and Parent — responsibility of nurturing which requires parents to be aware of themselves as role models of faith
 - c. Child and Community — responsibility of community to nurture parent and child in their faith. God works through people to grow in a relationship through others with God. Initiation into a faith community is not a private affair

- Salvation:** process of becoming freed from evil through faith in Christ and obedience to the Spirit
- To save:** a freeing, not a rescuing
- To create:** using the *power* of God within us to call others to goodness through the faith community

II. A Few “Historical” Obstacles and Superstitions

- A. From Original Sin to Fundamental Opinion
- B. From Adam & Eve to the Parable of Wheat and Weeds
- C. Baptism As Initiation
 1. Baptismal Promises as call to become co-creators and co-redeemers with Christ (priest, prophet, royal person)
- D. Superstitions
 1. Limbo
 2. Indulgences
 3. Dogma of closed revelation vs continuous process



Session Three — Baptism: A Historical Perspective

I. The Meaning of Baptism

A. Time of Jesus

1. Baptism of John
2. Repentance/Conversion

B. Apostolic Church

1. Dividing line between the old and the new
2. Between waiting for the Messiah and the reality of the Risen Christ
3. Between being a community of law and being a community of love
4. For those being baptized, real changes occurred in their lives

C. St. Paul's Theology

1. Baptism = Sign of Death and Resurrection
2. Dying to past life — rising to a new life in a new community
 - a participation in the **Paschal Mystery**
 - Immersion = join Christ in dying to sin
 - out of water = rise into a transformed and redeemed life
 - Put on Christ Jesus**: joined to a community that had been sanctified, justified, freed from sin

- C. Conversion — continuous process of growth and change
 1. Conversion — central to the baptism promises of the renunciation of sin and the profession of faith
 2. Conversion as mandate to actively engage in transformation process. Shadow work for parents as role models to set an example for their children about the importance of inner work — becoming co-creators and co-redeemers with God
 3. Conversion as experience in daily lives. This is a part of parents' answering "yes" to a Christian way of life which they profess publicly at their child's baptism
 4. Conversion as shared experience
 - a. Day to day Christian decision making, values in action
 - b. Progressive change in the way we see ourselves, others and the world through eyes of Christ rather than in a worldly, secular perspective



II. Christian Parenting as reflection an “faith”, “spirituality” and “religion”; parenting stimulates awareness of faith, personal spirituality in our lives and challenges us to provide a religious back ground for our children

A. Faith

1. Inward beliefs, unknowns —religious myth
2. Image of God — “Who do people say that I am? Who do you say that I am?” (Mark)
3. Importance of image of God on behavior

B. Spirituality

1. Relationship with God — prayer life, inner work
2. Openness to God’s presence in daily life — in myself, other people, members of the family, nature, Christian community, ritual, art, music, etc.
3. Reflecting our growth and deepening experience of God in our choices

C. Religion

1. **Opportunities** to “act” on our faith; worship, prayer, celebrations (Liturgical year), etc.
2. **Benefits:** Relationships as a Christian parent provides identity, support, vision, ideals
3. **Responsibilities:** Relationship as a Christian demands participation, commitment, challenge to growth as a believer

D. Christian Parents as Role Models for Children

1. Worship: Sunday Liturgy, holidays, seasons, sacraments
2. Prayer: Meals, bedtime, praise as way of communicating with God, tasks as prayer, etc.
3. Bible stories and spiritual readings to convey Christian values
4. Christian Artifacts: candle, water, cross, Advent Wreath, pictures, etc.

