

St. Michael the Archangel, Cary NC
Parent and Godparent Baptism Preparation
Reborn: You, Your Child and The Heart of Baptism

Welcome to the REBORN program. These sessions have been carefully designed to help you prepare for your child or godchild's entrance into the sacramental life of the Church. They will explore the profound effects and mission of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Reborn - Episode 1: A New Creation - Video length 40 minutes.

To understand the wonder of Baptism, we must go all the way back to creation itself and the unique, life-giving place of water and new life shown there. From there, we watch the story of Baptism in salvation history unfold, first in the nation of Israel and culminating in the work of Jesus and his Apostles. The stage is set for this very moment in time: the moment when each individual is baptized and brought into newness of life, fellowship with God, and the community of faith. This is the beginning of a new life and a new creation.

Episode 1 Questions:

1: Have you ever attended a Baptism? What details do you remember about it?

2: Why do you desire Baptism for your child? What is your deepest desire for your child in Baptism?

Reborn - Episode 2: Entering the Mystery - Video length 25 minutes.

Each prayer and action in the Rite of Baptism is filled with spiritual significance, beauty, and grace. Here we see that Baptism isn't something happens on the outside alone, but changes us on the inside. Entering the Mystery walks step-by-step through the Rite of Baptism to reveal how God's love and grace is at work in the baptized and in the lives of parents and godparents. By understanding more clearly what's happening, we'll have a greater appreciation for why Baptism takes us further into a life-changing relationship with God.

Episode 2 Questions:

1: What are some choices you have already made for your child (or that you have observed parents making for their children)? What would be the potential consequences of delaying these decisions until the child is old enough to make those decisions for him/herself?

2: Why do you think it is important for you to choose Baptism for your child and what are some of the reasons you are choosing Baptism for your child?

3: Baptism brings us into the family of God, the Church. This means so much more than just being welcomed into the local parish. The family of God stretches across time and culture. What does it mean to you to be a part of the family of God? How will you help your child understand and live out his or her identity as part of the family of God?

Reborn – Episode 3: Nurturing the Life of Grace - Video length 25 minutes.

Baptism is only the beginning. Parents and godparents are called to partner with the entire community of the faithful to help guide this new life of grace. Nurturing the Life of Grace presents the needed information and inspiration to help care for the newly baptized through the lifelong journey of faith. Using sound Catholic principles and teaching, the roles of parents and godparents are illuminated to become the essential influences and examples the young in Christ need for a faith-filled life.

Episode 3 Questions:

1: Why is the Christian life meant to be lived out in community? What effect has the community of faith had on you?

2: Who are your godparents? How have they impacted your faith? How do you see them impacting the faith of your child?

GODPARENT VIDEO SESSION

Reborn - The Gift of Godparents: More Than Cards & Presents – Video length 38 minutes.

Being a godparent is more than a cultural or symbolic role played out on the day of Baptism. Lucas Pollice dismantles the myths and answers these practical questions: What roles do godparents play on the day of Baptism? How are godparents called to impact the spiritual growth and well-being of the one being baptized? What kinds of things can godparents do for the baptized, beyond the occasional card or gift? Why doesn't the Church allow just anyone to be a godparent? How can parents discern the best godparent for their child? How do both the parents and godparents fit within the community of faith? By the end, godparents will understand the necessity and responsibilities of their role for teaching, living, and protecting the faith of the baptized.

TO THE PARENT

At his or her Baptism, your child will be anointed with the Holy Spirit and receive the same calling and mission that Christ received: to be Priest, Prophet, and King. As parent, you will be the primary teacher and example for your child in his or her life of faith. It's a daunting task, but you are perfectly equipped for it; you have already received the anointing of the same Holy Spirit and been called into this same mission.

TO THE GODPARENT

At his or her Baptism, your godchild will be anointed with the Holy Spirit and receive the same calling and mission that Christ received: to be Priest, Prophet, and King. As a godparent, your responsibility to set an example of faith and teach your godchild about the Christian life comes second only to that of the parents. It's a daunting task, but you are perfectly equipped for it; you have already received the anointing of the same Holy Spirit and been called into this same mission.

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