

Preparation for the Baptism of Your Child



Pre-Jordan Formation for Parents

PART I: The Sacrament of Baptism

PART II: Raising Children in the Faith

“What is Baptism
all about?”



“What is
a Sacrament?”



Sacrament

+ an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace +

(1) An Outward Sign

(2) Instituted by Christ

(3) To Give Grace



“What’s in the Backpack?”

Indwelling Trinity

Divine Adoption

Conformity to Christ

... and Joined to His Body, the Church

Temple of the Holy Spirit

Sanctifying Grace

Theological Virtues

Infused Moral Virtues

Gifts of the Holy Spirit



The Theological Virtues

- Faith:** *Divinely inspired belief in God and in all He reveals.*
- Hope:** *Divinely inspired reliance on God's grace, oriented to eternal life.*
- Charity:** *Divinely inspired love of God and neighbor.*

The Moral / Cardinal Virtues

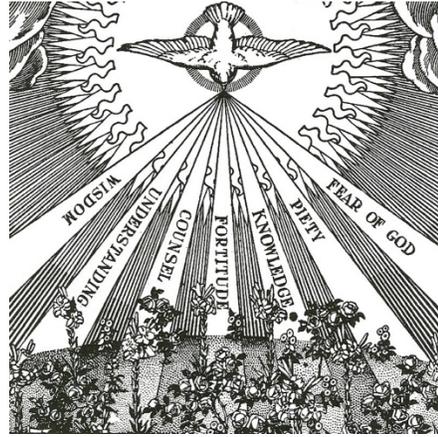
Prudence: *Right reason in action.* Prudence is good moral judgment practiced and lived out. It applies to all actions, ordering them to what is good and in accordance with right reason. It is the “chariot” or “pilot” of the virtues.

Justice: *Giving to others their due.* Justice is the virtue of relationships, acknowledging the value of others and acting in accordance with what is their true good. It seeks to give God the honor due Him, which virtue we call *Religion*. It also seeks to give other persons their due, which virtue we call *Social Justice*, involving right honor, right reward, right punishment, and/or acknowledging and rectifying wrongs. It applies to both *micro-relationships* (the relationships in our daily lives) and *macro-relationships* (societal relationships and systems, such as the state, the economy, the environment, etc.).

Fortitude: *Courageously doing what is right in the face of difficulties.* It is not always easy to do right, and it can sometimes be very tempting to do wrong, because of convenience or social expectations or pressure. Through fortitude, God gives us the graced strength to do what is right even when it is difficult.

Temperance: *Pleasures moderated and ordered to the good.* Seeking pleasure for its own sake makes us selfish, enslaves us, and has many bad consequences. Temperance helps us order pleasure aright—especially the pleasures of food, alcohol, and sex—so that we truly find joy in good things, in the right context, in the right amount, and in the right way . . . and avoid taking pleasure in evil things. Under temperance, we also find many virtues of balance. For example, *Humility* helps us to have the right estimation of ourselves, neither overestimating our value and importance (*superiority*), nor underestimating it (*inferiority*). It also helps us appreciate that others have the same value and importance as ourselves. Temperance also helps us to order things to the right proportions in our lives (making time for prayer and family; not watching too much TV, etc.). All the dimensions of living a healthy life would fall under temperance (healthy diet, exercise, sleep, time for prayer and healthy recreation, good relationships, dealing with stress and problems well, etc.).

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit—mentioned in Is 11:1-3—are divine gifts within us that aid and perfect the virtues. They are as follows:

Wisdom: The *Gift of Wisdom* yields to us a “taste” of the depth and brilliance of God and His ways, including giving us insight into the wisdom of the Cross in God’s plan. Wisdom perfects the theological virtue of Charity.

Understanding: The *Gift of Understanding* causes the truths of the faith to be more deeply impressed on our souls, causing us to be in greater awe of their realities. It perfects Faith.

Counsel: Through the *Gift of Counsel*, the Holy Spirit helps us to know intuitively and quickly what is best. Through this gift, the Holy Spirit also moves us to do something which in retrospect can be seen as the perfect action for the occasion, although human reason did not know it at the time. We are especially encouraged to pray for the Gift of Counsel when we don’t know what the best decisions in our life are and need God’s guidance, when prudence is insufficient. The Gift of Counsel helps and perfects the virtue of Prudence.

Might: The *Gift of Might* is inspired strength for heroic virtue, providing us with divine strength in an overwhelmingly difficult situation. This gift strengthens the virtue of Fortitude.

Knowledge: The *Gift of Knowledge* enables us to see the world and all created things the way that God sees them. It helps us see how God is reflected in all created things, but also to have a keen awareness of the passing nature of the present world. It perfects Faith.

Piety: The *Gift of Piety* deepens our inner conviction of being God’s children. It gives us a deeper share in the intimacy that Jesus had and has with the Father. Piety perfects the virtue of Justice.

Fear of the Lord: The *Gift of the Fear of the Lord* enables us to see more profoundly the awesomeness of God and the true ugliness of sin. It strengthens our desire to glorify God in everything, and not to sin or offend Him in any way. It perfects the virtue of Temperance.

Objections



1. Why baptize infants?
2. What about Original Sin?
3. Does it work?

PARENTS AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS



2 Chief Temptations

- To Neglect Faith Formation
- To Outsource Faith Formation

A Better Way: Parents as the primary formators of their children in the Faith. The Church aids and supports you in that.

Stewardship Parenting – The concept of *Stewardship Parenting* involves seeing God as the ultimate parent of your children and yourselves as His stewards, representatives, and specially chosen instruments. To represent God and parent your children on His behalf is a tall order. But it's also an awesome opportunity! And He will help you.

Take Away: Embrace, commit to, and take ownership of God's call for you to be spiritual leaders of your children.

*“There’s no more room
on the plate!”*



Religion is often like the arts in school:
it’s the first thing to get cut!

But what if there’s a different way to think about faith? . . .

Instead of viewing faith as just another thing to add to an already crowded
plate . . .

Instead, think of faith as the plate!

- It should hold up everything else.
- It should touch and shape everything else.
- It should unify and give ultimate meaning to everything else.

THE PRIMACY OF FAITH

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be yours as well.”

-Matthew 6:33

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and
with all your mind, and with all your strength . . .

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

-Mark 12:30-31

“What does it profit someone if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?”

-Matthew 16:26

Ultimately you and your children were made for more than this world.

We were made for God. Everything else should be seen in light of this. All activities and goals should be oriented to, align with, and be in accordance with this great goal God has in mind for us.

Suffering and death highlight the emptiness of all things apart from faith.

FAITH WITHIN MARRIAGE & FAMILY



*What place should God and the Catholic Faith have
in your marriage and family life?*

Traditional Cultures: religion is central and permeates everything
Modern Culture: religion as rejected, private, or very secondary.

Why are modern people hesitant with regard to God and faith?

+ *Why Christ and the Catholic Faith should be central in your marriage and family life* +

- If God exists, He cannot be secondary.
- Faith, rightly understood and lived, doesn't take away from your marriage and family life, but preserves, protects, saves, and enriches it.
- A Biblical Model: *Overflowing Love* . . . from God to the couple, from each spouse to the other, from the spouses to their children, from their children to the world

The Difference Faith Makes

- **Meaning:** Water turned into Wine. Everything has meaning. Everything is deeper.
- **Relationships:** People are appreciated more deeply. Bonds are closer.
- **Guiding Beliefs:** Beliefs that ground you in truth.
- **Guiding Values:** Values and ideals to hold on to and aim for.
- **Guiding Grace:** Grace you need to be faithful, for forgiveness and healing, to make the right decisions, to be the best spouses and parents you can be, and for help through the tough times.

In Practice: 7 Pillars

1. Personal Prayer
2. Family Prayer
3. Mass & Sunday
4. Confession
5. Community
6. Example & Instruction
7. Service

PILLAR 1: Personal Prayer

“When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

—Matthew 5:8

PILLAR 2: Family Prayer

“Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.”

—Matthew 18:20

PILLAR 3: Mass & Sunday

“Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God.”

—Deuteronomy 20:12-13

“Do this in remembrance of me.” —I Corinthians 11:24

PILLAR 4: Confession

“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” —John 20:22

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin . . . purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow . . . create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me . . . then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.”

—Psalm 51:1-2, 7, 10, 13

PILLAR 5: Community

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

—Hebrews 10:23-25

PILLAR 6: Example & Instruction

“Make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them everything I have commanded you.” —Matthew 28:19-20

“Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” —I Timothy 4:12

“Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.” —2 Timothy 4:2

PILLAR 7: Service

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” —Mark 10:45

“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” —Matthew 25:40

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” —John 13:14-15

“Now there are variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” —I Corinthians 12:4-7

“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” —I Peter 4:11

Character & Virtue

In parenting, what's your goal?

3-TIERED APPROACH TO FORMING CHILDREN

Specialization
General Knowledge & Skills
Character (made up of virtues)

The Importance of Moral Character: It's foundational to flourishing. Morality is not just about minimal standards, but about ideals. It's also not just about doing good, but becoming good. It's about the development of the core of who we are. It's also both spiritual and human, and both vertical and horizontal. Holiness is moral character sanctified and elevated. Heaven is our ultimate destination. Christ is our guide. The parents are key instruments for the formation of character and holiness in their children.

Discernment Question

Will this or that build character or take away from it?

Examples: Should I get this toy for my child or not? Should I get my child a cell phone? And when? Etc.

OUR 2 VOCATIONS

1. Our primary vocation is the same for all of us: holiness
2. Our secondary vocation is different: God calls us to something more specific that includes marriage, or single lay life, or religious life, or priesthood. Within that way of life, God wants to work through our own unique personality, strengths, and gifts for the good of others.



Holiness = character infused with God's grace and oriented to eternal life.

+ *Every level is supposed to be sanctified and infused with God's grace.* +

Internalization

+ The Key to Effective Formation +

- Example
- Make the Good Appealing / Attractive
- Teaching Why (The Wisdom of the Good / Life Lessons)
- Discipline (Unto the End of Shaping Character)
- 3 Traps: Overly Harsh, Overly Lenient, Absent

Low Bar Morality – minimal standards to meet (“don’t kill anyone”)

High Bar Morality – ideals & values; character and virtue development



“Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

-Ephesians 6:13-17



Featured Products

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

-Isaiah 61:10

Qualities You Desire for Your Children

- Good
- Principled
- Well-rounded / Balanced
- Honest
- Own up to sins & mistakes
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Humble
- Hard-Working
- Disciplined
- Good at listening
- Team Player
- Personal Prayer
- Love God
- Faithful Disciple / Good Catholic
- Patient
- Manage anger well
- Manage stress well
- Resilient (able to bounce back / not get discouraged by setbacks)
- Perseverance / Endurance
- Compassionate
- Kind
- Thoughtful
- Eutrapelia (play)
- Make wise decisions
- Clean up after yourself
- Pitch in
- Help others
- Take initiation
- Be creative
- Generous
- Strong
- Not swayed by peer pressure
- Healthy / self-care
- Long-term thinking
- Desire to learn, grow, and improve
- Chaste
- Temperate
- Disciplined
- Obedient
- Faithful (be a person of your word; follow through)
- Lead well
- Communicate with others
- Thankful / Gratitude
- Appreciate & involve others
- Delegation
- Ability to be silent, still, and focused (self-mastery)



The Theological Virtues

Faith

Hope

Charity / Love

The Moral Virtues

Prudence

Justice

Fortitude

Temperance



Faith

Following Christ

Faithfulness

Prayer – personal, social, daily

Reverence

Silence

Stillness

Adoration / Praise

Gratitude / Thanksgiving

Contrition

Supplication

Faithfulness



Hope

Hoping in God

Longing for Heaven

Relying on God's Grace

Trust in God

Good Stress Management

Resilience – the ability to bounce back

The 2 Sins Against Hope: Presumption & Despair



Charity

Love of God

Love of Neighbor

Intercession

Joy / Cheerfulness

Peace of Soul

Zeal – passion, motivation, enthusiasm

Generosity

Initiation

Mercy / Compassion / Empathy

Fraternal Correction



Prudence

Good Judgment

- Seek What is Best – not necessarily what's easiest or most convenient
- Judiciousness
- Long Term Thinking
- Critical Thinking – don't believe everything you hear; beware of facile solutions and pseudo-plausibility; think through all angles, so that you don't miss anything
- Consultation – consult others; avoid group think; listen to those who disagree; you don't have to ultimately do what others advise, but it is good to take it into account, both so that they feel heard and consulted and so that you can make the best possible decision and not just fall into your own personal biases and preferences
- Love of Learning – you should constantly strive to grow in knowledge, skills, experience, and good judgment
- Learning from Your Mistakes and Failures
- Risk Management – avoid both being cavalier and paranoid
- Good Problem-Solving Skills
- Creativity

Prudence in Speech

- Know when to speak and when to be silent
- Say the right thing at the right time in the right place in the right way
- Not too loud or too soft
- Articulation – be clear and precise (vs. unclear and imprecise)
- Formality vs. Informality

Prudence in Action

- Know what to do and what not to do at the right time and place and way
- Avoiding both hastiness & procrastination
- Actions which are courageous, controlled, wise, and just



Justice

Religion – giving to God the honor due Him (see the virtues under Faith)

Relationship with Superiors (Parents, Elders, Teachers, Etc.)

Respect

Love of / Devotion to

Gratitude

Obedience

Learning - from all who have more knowledge, skill, and experience

General

Reverence For the Dignity of Life

Respect Toward People

Stewardship

Reliability

Responsibility

Trustworthiness

Honesty

Hospitality – Being a Good Host

Etiquette – being a good guest, behaving well at school and other social occasions

Good Behavior in the Classroom

Good Communication

Good Listening

Edifying Speech

Being a Good Family Member / Team Player

Kindness

Eutrapelia – virtuous play (being able to have good, clean, innocent fun)



Fortitude

Courage in Words

Courage in Action

Honesty

Patience

Perseverance

Follow Through

Defense



Temperance

Healthy Eating

Sobriety

Healthy Living

Chastity – sexuality rightly ordered

Humility – proper estimation of oneself

Meekness – managing anger well

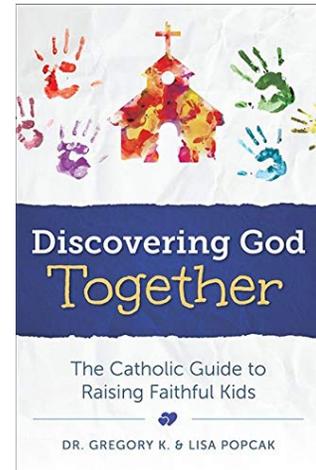
Discipline – good work ethic

Eutrapelia – the virtue of having appropriate rest and fun

Resources

Parenting

Parenting with Grace by Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak
Raising Good Kids by Dr. Ray Guarendi
Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime by Dr. Ray Guarendi
The Five Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman
The Divorced Catholic's Guide to Parenting by Lynn Cassella Kapusinski
And Baby Makes Three by John Gottman
Parenting by Paul David Trip
(anything by Dr. Ray Guarendi or Dr. Gregory Popcak)



Raising Teens

The Five Love Languages of Teenagers by Gary Chapman
For Parents Only by Jeff and Shaunti Feldhahn

Faith

Discovering God Together by Gregory & Lisa Popcak
How to Raise Good Catholic Children by Mary Reed Newland
Catholic Family Handbook by Fr. Lawrence Lovasik
A Catechism for Family Life by Sarah Bartel and John S. Grabowski
Made This Way: How to Prepare Your Kids to Face Today's Tough Moral Questions by Leila Miller and Trent Horn
Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers
The Catholic Home: Celebrations and Traditions for Holidays, Feast Days, and Every Day by Meredith Gould
Hallowed be this House by Thomas Howard
When Faith Causes Family Friction by Dr. Ray Guarendi
Brilliant: 25 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People by David and Jaclyn Warren

Sacraments

Little Catechism on the Eucharist by Fr. Roberto Coggi
First Communion Catechism by Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
A Little Book about Confession for Children by Kendra Tierney
My Confession Book by Andrine Welters, OSB
Jesus Speaks to Me about Confession by Angela Burrin and Maria Cristina Lo Cascio
Going to Confession by Reverend Lawrence G Lovasik, SVD

Virtues

Made for Greatness by Ginny Kochis
Catholic Values for Kids by Ana Salderton
The Book of Virtues by William J. Bennett
The Children's Treasury of Virtues by William J. Bennett
The Children's Book of Virtues by William J. Bennett
The Children's Book of Heroes by William J. Bennett

Sexuality

Beyond the Birds and Bees by Greg and Lisa Popcak (for parents)
Wonderfully Made — Babies: A Catholic Perspective on How and Why God Makes Babies (for ages 9 and up) by Ellen Giangiorano

Videos

Formed.org

*There are many and always new resources for parents and children out there.
You are encouraged to explore online and in stores, and always be on the lookout.*