

# Parish Infant Baptism Sacramental Ministry and Pastoral Care Inventory

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1. How do you invite families to participate in the sacrament of infant Baptism?
  - a. Offer *Blessing of the Child in the Womb* four times a year during Mass
  - b. Each month have an invitation with contact information in the bulletin
  - c. Discuss sacramental opportunities when families register at the parish
  - d. Have a team of people participating in Baptismal ministry for the parish, including people who routinely update the parish website links supporting families
  - e. Other?
  
2. How do you welcome families to the preparation for Baptism?
  - a. Personal letter from the Pastor, Faith Formation leader, mentoring couple, and/or ...
  - b. Phone call
  - c. Interview\*
  - d. Home visit
  - e. Offer a mentor couple or parent from the parish to share the journey and offer ongoing support for the family
  - f. Include a “Prayer of the Community” with names of those preparing to be being baptized on the parish website during the preparation period
  - g. Offer family resources, such as a “Prayer of siblings” card, the book *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* or another family prayer book
  - h. Assist families as needed with choosing godparents
  - i. Other?
  
3. How do you approach families with different and/or special circumstances?
  - a. Recognize and differentiate preparation approaches for the following:
    - i. Families new to the parish
    - ii. Couples
      1. Catholic wedding
      2. Non-Catholic wedding and/or one parent not Catholic
      3. Not married
    - iii. Single parents
    - iv. Families with children already baptized
    - v. Families living far away from their extended family
    - vi. Families with other languages, cultural and ethnic traditions
    - vii. Older child being baptized
    - viii. Grandparents raising the child
    - ix. Illness or trauma in family
    - x. One or both parents in the Armed Forces
  
4. How do you address parents who have previously been through the Baptismal preparation

- program with an older child?
- a. Sibling involvement with preparation process, such as offering to have them trace the sign of the cross on the infant's forehead, offering them a simple Mass book as a gift when their younger brother or sister is baptized
  - b. Talk with the family about participating in a parish MOMS/MOPS group, parish childcare, CLOW, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Pre-School program, etc.
  - c. Other?
5. How do you welcome and offer hospitality to family and visitors (Catholic and non-Catholic) to the Baptism?
- a. Personal welcome before Mass
  - b. Include names of children and families of those being baptized during the Mass intercessions
  - c. For non-Catholics invite them to come forward and to be blessed during Communion (and show them the posture for being blessed)
  - d. Offer a reception for families, visitors and all parishioners to celebrate after Mass
  - e. Introduce family to other parishioners (this could be done by the mentor couple/parent, who has walked with them throughout the preparation process and will remain in contact with them in the years ahead)
  - f. Provide the family with a copy of *My Baptism Book* or other blessings or keepsakes for their home
6. How do you continue to deepen the relationship with the families after the Baptism?
- a. Send monthly letters to parents from the parish that offer parenting tips and information about faith development
  - b. Host family gatherings of those baptized during the previous 3, 6, and/or 12 month period at the parish with childcare available
  - c. Follow-up with mentor couples/parents who remain in contact with the families for ideas to continue to support the families during the pre-school years
  - d. Offer the "Embrace Parenthood" program from *Teaching the Way of Love* series
  - e. Have a special section of the parish website devoted to updated information on parenting skills, child development, home faith based activities, parish and online video links, prayers for blessing one's home (or sending the family the book, *Home Blessings: Honoring God's presence in every room* by Connors), offering monthly book clubs both online and/or in person, sharing information about family events happening in the local community, and offering family friendly movie nights periodically throughout the year
  - f. Post a website link with marriage enrichment resources, such as "For Your Marriage" USCCB link, "Six Dates" program, information on the *Five Love Languages*, etc.
  - g. Routinely offer rituals and celebrations for milestones and transitions in the family life cycle
  - h. Host a MOMS/MOPS group or other young family support activities
  - i. Intergenerational faith formation events and meals
  - j. Other?

*\* Refer to interview template provided on another handout*