

Program Content

Session 1 – “Marriage as a Sign of God’s Love to your Child”



- * Family of origin
- * Parental vocation
- * Understanding family background

What ways did your family pass on Catholic/Christian values?

What was the greatest blessing your family bestowed on you?

- * Make a primary commitment
- * Covenant love
- * Marriage & discipleship

How has marriage made you a better disciple?

How does your marriage nurture your child’s Baptism?

Session 2 – “Gifts and Qualities Most Beneficial to your Child”



- * Parents as educators
- * Priorities for our children

For what do you most hope for your children?

What is the call of a disciple?

Session 3 – “Nurturing Your Child’s Gift of Faith ”



- * The call to holiness
- * Stewardship & prayer
- * Tasks of the Christian family

- * Review rite of baptism

Do you pray as a couple or as a family?

What are the tasks of a Christian family, the domestic church?

A FEW REMINDERS

These sessions are for you. Because of the gift that they are, children easily distract us. For maximum benefit for yourself and others, we provide nursery care for bottle-fed babies, toddlers, and older children. Breast-feeding babies are always welcome.

It is recommended to attend these sessions during your pregnancy.

Please do not bring cell phones or beepers into the sessions

Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role...is so decisive, that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute. It is therefore the duty of parents to create a family atmosphere so animated by love and devotion to God and others which will promote an integrated, personal & social education of their children.

(Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Christian Education, 1965.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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St. Joseph’s Pre Jordan Program

A Parent Enrichment

Program for Infant

Baptism



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St. Joseph's Pre Jordan Program

A Parent Enrichment Program for Infant Baptism

Certainly when you look at your child, you see more than anyone else the great gift which God has given to you. When we think about what it is that we want to give our children our minds are naturally led to think of things like a loving home, a good education, etc. Wherever each one of us may be on our faith journey, the words of Christ, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them," evoke a sense of responsibility and an awareness of what is most important in life. What greater gift do we have to give to our children



2011-2012
Calendar
Monday Evenings
7:00-8:30 PM

June 6, 13, 20 (2011)
July 11, 18, 25
August 13 (Saturday 9 am – 1 pm)
September 12, 19, 26
October 3, 10, 17
November 7, 14, 21
December 3 (Sat. 9 am – 1 pm)
January 9, 16, 23 (2012)
February 6, 13, 20
March 10 (Saturday 9 am – 1 pm)
April 16, 23, 30
May 7, 14, 21
June 4, 11, 18

Why three sessions ?

Children are born into a family and in baptism, are reborn into the Body of Christ's Church. A child's spiritual well being raises issues of Christian marriage and parenthood, discipleship, and a Christian life in a family and parish context. A three-session parent preparation program has been chosen for the following reasons:

The Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children; marriage and family life are a path to holiness; and that all parish ministries should attempt to strengthen families.

Sacraments are one of the Church's spiritual resources for our lives. It is essential to understand this Sacrament and the primary context in which it is to be lived. Like other Sacraments, Baptism requires preparation of some duration.

Family mobility, two-income households; impact of divorce; competing values, etc. make child-rearing more complex than ever today.

The Church and the family have a common task: to foster discipleship. The Church does it through worship and Christian formation (like this program); the family does it more informally. God's grace perfects the natural tasks of family life, including its religious dimension.

Structure of the Sessions

1. Opening Prayer
2. Ice breaker
3. Presentation (*See Program Content for weekly topics*)
4. Couple Discussion *Keeping marriage as the primary focus of the family may be more important than reading parenting books. Not only is this what is implicit in covenant promises, but happily married parents bring security to children. An intimate marriage is better able to respond to the challenge of parenthood and to integrate the lifelong changes that parenthood brings. The essence of Christian married love is not emotion, feelings, or sex; it is a decision to be deeply committed to one person for life. We invite couples to reflect on their commitment because so much is at stake.*
5. Wrap-Up
6. Couple to couple discussion
7. Closing Prayer