

The logo for Baptism Matters, featuring the word "Baptism" in a large, orange, serif font above the word "MATTERS" in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. A stylized green and blue wave graphic is positioned below the text.

The various components of *Baptism Matters* work together to transform the sacramental- preparation process for your baptism team and the families they serve. By combining innovative online modules with the small-group faith-sharing model that is at the heart of RENEW International's mission, your baptism program will help families engage with your parish and enter fully into your faith community.

For more information about Baptism Matters, please contact:

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Additional Resources

Baptism Matters provides all the resources you need for your baptism-preparation program. In addition to the online modules, we have created the following:

- **INTAKE FORM:** Our intake form can be printed or saved digitally and insures that you have the complete information on the family easily accessible
- **INTERVIEW GUIDE:** This guide provides mentors with a structure for conducting an initial family interview and gives tips for ways to form a connection with the family.
- **CHOOSING A GODPARENT:** The choice of godparent can be vital in the spiritual development of the child. This guide will give mentors the tools to facilitate a conversation with the family about how to best choose a godparent.
- **IN-PERSON FAITH SHARING SESSION MATERIALS:** Fostering a sense of community among families with newly-baptized children is an excellent way to keep them connected with your parish. Bringing them together with their mentors to pray, read Scripture, and share their faith will provide a foundation for them to move forward, supporting one another in their faith life.
- **AUTOMATED EMAILS:** As part of the program, significant dates will be captured, and personalized emails will be automatically generated on the anniversary of the baptism, the child's birthday, religious holidays and other special days, including a reminder when the child approaches the age of preparation for First Eucharist. This will help keep the family connected to the parish without overburdening staff.
- **DISCUSSION GROUP:** A special *Baptism Matters* Facebook community will provide a private forum for parents to connect and share their experiences. The group will be monitored by RENEW International pastoral representatives to help facilitate conversations.

RENEW International
*fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition
by empowering individuals and communities
to encounter God in everyday life,
deepen and share faith,
and connect faith with action.*



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RENEW International is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



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Baptism preparation for families
through the lens of evangelization



Baptism MATTERS

An Evangelizing Moment

Parents bring their children for baptism for a wide variety of reasons. While we always hope that parents will come because they want to pass on their deep faith to their children, whatever brings them to our door is a cause for rejoicing. We have an opportunity for evangelization before us. *Baptism Matters* not only prepares parents and godparents to fully enter into the sacrament with their child, but also provides parishes with the tools to transform sacramental preparation into an evangelizing experience.

A Program for Today

RENEW International knows that people are busier than ever. That is why we have created a flexible online solution that gives both parish staff and parents access to materials wherever and whenever works for them. The program is presented in online learning modules; each module includes an assessment quiz or game and provides a certification upon completion.

PARISH STAFF AND BAPTISM TEAM MODULES

These six modules have been designed to train the entire staff and parish team, from the receptionist answering the phone to the parish ministers and pastors. It will give them the tools to transform the baptism preparation process into a series of evangelizing moments.

- 1. Vision of Parish as Mission Driven**—This module places the work of the parish staff and baptism team within the context of evangelization. They will explore how their work fulfills Christ's mandate to go to all people and share the Good News.
- 2. Welcome Matters**—A primary factor in a person's decision to stay involved in a parish is whether or not he or she feels welcomed into the parish community. In this module, the team is given the tools to make a family feel like part of the parish from the initial contact.
- 3. Who Are Our Families?**—This module gives insight into today's families—which vary widely in their background and status—and how best to accompany them on this important faith journey.
- 4. What You Need to Know About Baptism**—This module lays a sound theological foundation and explains the nature of baptism.
- 5. Introduction to Baptism Matters**—An easy-to-follow, online presentation on the complete program with an overview of how each component contributes to the goals of helping families feel like members of the parish community and deepening their relationship with Jesus. A downloadable manual for parish reference with a Quick Start Guide helps parishes quickly and confidently implement a successful program.
- 6. Training for Mentors**—Accompaniment is vital to the success of *Baptism Matters*. This module trains individuals and couples to act as mentors to effectively support and accompany families, inviting them to share in the life of the parish and witness to the Gospel at home and in the community.



PARENT AND FAMILY MODULES

These four modules have been created for parents or other family members who will be acting as the primary caregivers for the child being baptized.

- 1. What you Need to Know About Baptism**—No matter what catechetical background the parents have, this module will lay the groundwork for the faith journey they are embarking on with their child.
- 2. Baptism and You**—Baptism can affect the faith of the entire family. In this module parents reflect on their own faith and the impact it can have on their lives and families. Participants are reminded that they were baptized for a life of missionary discipleship. Video witness stories provide personal insights into the baptism experience.
- 3. Passing on the Faith to Your Child**—This module provides parents with tools to help them live up to the promise to bring up their child in the Catholic faith and integrate that faith into their everyday lives.
- 4. Ceremony, Signs, and Symbols**—The rich symbolism and rite of the sacrament are introduced and explained in this module with images and videos from actual baptisms.

GODPARENT MODULES

In spite of the huge impact that godparents can have on the faith journey of a child, many programs overlook these vital role models. This module will provide guidance and support to those who will take on this important responsibility.

- 1. What you need to Know About Baptism**—In this module godparents are introduced to the basics of the sacrament.
- 2. Guide for Godparents**—Often godparents are unsure of their role in the life of their godchild or how to go about fulfilling that role. This module supplies tips and ideas for how they can help keep faith alive in the life of their godchild.
- 3. Signs and Symbols**—This module familiarizes godparents with such things as the holy oils, baptismal candle, and white garment that dramatize the themes of the baptism ritual.

