



St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

8014 State Road 52 Hudson, FL 34667

Instructions for the Baptism of Children Seven and Older

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***If your child is six or younger, please go to our website at <https://www.saintmichaelchurch.org/baptism>.**

Section One: General Instructions for all Baptisms:

1. Go to our web site for all the information and forms for Baptism:
<https://www.saintmichaelchurch.org/baptism>
2. Read the Baptism Guide
3. Print and complete the Baptism Registration Form and the Godparent Form.
4. Have the Godparent contact the parish they belong to so the parish can write a letter affirming that the Godparent is actually a practicing Catholic in good standing.
5. Follow the link to register for the online parent class, "Belonging." Once you complete the online class, print the completion certificate and keep it with the Baptism Registration Form & the Godparent Form.

Section Two: Instructions for children age seven and older:

1. The parent and child should go to the Real+True website on Sacraments:
<https://www.realtrue.org/units/sacraments/> and watch the first video (Why do we look for meaning in signs?) and discuss using the attached Discussion Guide. Repeat the process with the other three videos (the Discussion Guide tells you the video viewing order). The videos average 4 minutes each.
2. The parent and child should go to the Real+True website on Baptism:
<https://www.realtrue.org/units/baptism/> and watch the first video (Have you ever wanted a second chance at life?) and discuss using the attached Discussion Guide. Repeat the process with the other three videos (the Discussion Guide tells you the video viewing order). The videos average 4.5 minutes.
3. The Real+True Discussion Guides are the last two pages of this document.

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Section Three: Final Instructions:

1. Once the parent and child have completed sections one and two, the parent should email or call Andy Gotsch to set-up an appointment for one (or both parents) and the child(ren) to come in for a meeting...
2. Bring the following to the meeting:
 - ☐ Child's Birth Certificate
 - ☐ Completed Baptism Registration Form
 - ☐ Two (2) Godparent Forms (If a Godparent can't attend, you'll need a Proxy Form)
 - ☐ "Belonging" Completion Certificate
 - ☐ If you have received it, the affirmation letter from each Godparent's parish
3. At the meeting, we will have a family conversation about everyone's understanding of Sacraments and Baptism.
4. After having the meeting, you will be able to set up a date for the actual Baptism. Baptisms are done on the second Saturday of each month outside of the Mass. Contact Julie Stalter at office@saintmichaelchurch.org or (727) 379-1553.

Section Four: Faith Formation and First Communion Instructions

Faith Formation classes are an essential way for children to continue learning about their faith and growing in relationship with Jesus. Classes meet Sundays from 10:15-11:30am. They are open to everyone ages three and older. To register, contact Andy Gotsch.

1. First Communion prep is normally a two-year process (1st & 2nd grades).
 - a. If your child is older than seven, contact Andy Gotsch in order to create a plan for receiving First Communion.

Real+True

UNIT 14: SACRAMENTS | CCC 1077-1134

THESIS: THE SACRAMENTS UNITE US TO GOD AND MAKE US TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD.

Proclamation Video: Why do we look for meaning in signs?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- Why do you think there is a natural curiosity about the natural world and events having a deeper meaning or significance?
- Why do you think people look to understand "signs" in nature or life?

Explanation Video: What are the sacraments?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- In what ways can you relate to St. Thomas' desire to see and touch Jesus himself?
- Has there been a time you wish you could interact with God directly? What was that moment like?
- If the sacraments are the way God blesses us, what should our attitude toward the sacraments be, especially while we are receiving the sacraments?
- Aristotle defined happiness as the fullest development of our highest power: our intellect and our will, or our ability to think and act. If sacraments unite us to God and make us temples of the Holy Spirit, how do the sacraments also make us "happy" or blessed?
- Which sacraments stand out to you as harder to understand and why?
- Which sacraments make the most sense to you and why?

Connection Video 1: Are the sacraments just cultural traditions?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What cultural practices or traditions do you participate in yearly that you enjoy?
- What is the main difference between something done as a cultural tradition and a sacrament?
- Sacraments change us, they have an effect on us. How does this change the way we should prioritize sacraments in our life?
- How can the sacraments help our relationship with Jesus Christ?

Connection Video 2 - Why are sacraments important?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Before this video, where did you think the sacraments came from?
- If the sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ, what do you think this means for what Jesus intends for our relationship with Him?
- Which of the sacraments were you the most surprised by the origin?
- If the sacraments were part of God's plan all along, how might we change our life to be more reliant on the sacraments?

Real+True

UNIT 15: BAPTISM | CCC 1213-1284

THESIS: GOD GIVES US BIRTH INTO NEW LIFE THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM.

Proclamation Video: Have you ever wanted a second chance at life?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Do you have any moments from life that you wish you could go back and do again differently? Why or why not?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to give someone a second chance after they've wronged us?
- Why do you think people who were released from a life sentence have such a lower recidivism rate than others?
- In what way could a second chance be truly a first chance, like William Freeman III described?

Explanation Video: What is Baptism?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What did you already know or experience about baptism prior to this video?
- If you could go back and do something differently, or make a different decision, what would you change?
- Why is Nicodemus afraid to be recognized speaking with Jesus?
- What would it mean to be spiritually born "again" or "from above"?
- Do you remember your baptism or have you ever been present at a baptism? What part of the Rite of Baptism stood out to you the most?
- How important is Baptism for the life of a Christian?
- How might we remember and celebrate our baptism and other's?

Connection Video 1: How does baptism change you?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- Why do you think God wants to give us sanctifying grace in Baptism, or the ability to act over and above our human nature?
- The catechism says baptism makes us "partakers of the divine nature" of God. What effect does this have on our lives?
- If Baptism makes us a new creature and adopted sons and daughters of God, what does that mean original sin made us prior to Baptism?
- How does baptism change our relationship with Jesus in our daily lives?

Connection Video 2: Why are we baptized with water?

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- What stories, memories, or images come to mind when you think of water?
- Why did you think baptismal fonts are often placed at the front entrance of the Church?
- In what ways is Baptism like a spiritual washing and cleansing?