

# Office of Sacred Worship



**Director: Christopher Carstens**

Phone: 608-791-2674

Email: [worship@dioceseoflacrosse.com](mailto:worship@dioceseoflacrosse.com)



**Secretary: Jen Mickschl**

Phone: 608-791-0161

Email: [jmickschl@dioceseoflacrosse.com](mailto:jmickschl@dioceseoflacrosse.com)

## **Purpose of the Office**

The liturgy is the means through which we live in union with Christ and His saving activity. This is what we were re-created to do through Baptism. The Office of Sacred Worship serves the bishop to promote the liturgical life within the diocese by seeking to deepen the faithful's understanding of the meaning of the rites being celebrated, their manner of celebration, and their implications for daily life.

## **Work of the Office**

- Provides sacramental catechesis for all the members of the Diocese.
- Promotes the liturgical formation of those who serve the liturgical assembly.
- Serves as consultant on liturgical questions, including renovation of sacred spaces.
- Prepares Diocesan liturgical celebrations; promotes personal and family prayer and a sound devotional life.
- Assists parish and deanery liturgical ministers and sacred worship committees.
- Produces weekly televised Mass and its airing on television stations in the Diocese.
- Assists parish RCIA Coordinators with initiation rites for adults and children.

“In the liturgy the curtain between heaven and earth is torn open, and we are taken up into a liturgy that spans the whole cosmos.”

Cardinal Ratzinger, in *The Spirit of the Liturgy*

# Training/Formation: *Informational Presentations*



## **What is the Purpose of the Informational Presentations?**

The Office of Sacred Worship offers a variety of formation presentations. These offerings have the ultimate goal of facilitating the active participation of the faithful in the liturgy of the Church. “As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God” (Psalm 42; see above image). The active participation in the Liturgy is the source and summit of this font of God’s grace (represented by living water in the image) and liturgical formation intends to lead all to it.

## **What are the Components?**

Presentations include:

- The *Roman Missal*: Encountering Christ in the Words of the Mass
- The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: *An Examination of Conscience*
- Sacred Liturgy: *From Mass Confusion to Mass Understanding*
- The Revised *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*
- Acts of the Fifth Diocesan Synod: *Developing a Pastoral Plan for Implementation*
- *Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*
- *Sacred Scripture and the Church’s Liturgy*
- *Fostering a Liturgical Spirituality*

## **When is this Training and Formation Held?**

These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

## **Who May Attend?**

All of the Catholic faithful interested in learning more about the nature and practice of the Church’s liturgy should attend.

“We deem it necessary to provide before anything else for the sanctity and dignity of the temple, in which the faithful assemble for no other object than that of acquiring this spirit from its foremost and indispensable font, which is the active participation in the most holy mysteries and in the public and solemn prayer of the Church.”

-Pope Pius X, 1903

# **Training/Formation:**

## ***Sacred Ministers:***

### ***The Reader and***

#### ***Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion***



#### **What is the Purpose of the Training of Liturgical Ministers?**

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ: he the Head, we the members. When the liturgical celebration incorporates the full variety of ministries, the many parts of the Mystical Body are made visible. For this reason, the ministerial role of the laity at the Mass is invaluable. Whether in the ministry of reader or in the extraordinary service by which the clergy are assisted in distributing communion, lay liturgical ministers serve the Church and her worship of God. Both first-time liturgical ministers as well as those who have served for longer periods, however, can benefit from an examination of the theological and practical aspects of these ministerial roles.

#### **What are the Components?**

Liturgical and practical in nature, these workshops begin with a review of the meaning and purpose of the Church's liturgy. Then, based on this common understanding, the particular aspects of each ministry are discussed in a step-by-step process. Thus, the participants leave the workshop with a greater liturgical spirit as well as the practical knowledge and skills required to serve the Church in these liturgical ministries.

#### **When is this Training and Formation Held?**

These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

#### **Who May Attend?**

Any new or current readers or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may attend.

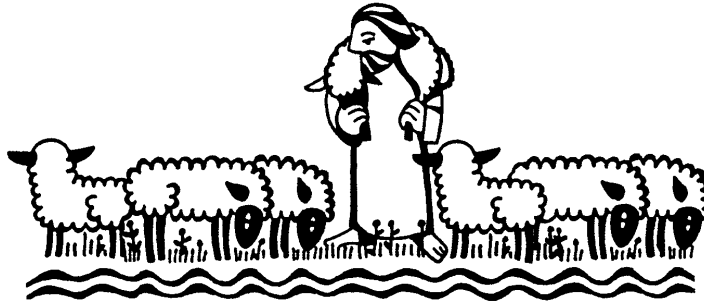
“[W]e should give thanks to God for...the ministries exercised by lay people and the responsibilities that they have assumed in virtue of the common priesthood into which they have been initiated through Baptism and Confirmation.”

-Apostolic Letter on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy,

Pope John Paul II

# **Training/Formation:**

## ***Parish-Level Sacred Worship Committees***



### **What is the Purpose of the Formation of Parish-Level Sacred Worship Committees?**

The Sacred Worship Committee assists the parish pastoral council “in fostering, first and foremost, the liturgical life of the parish as celebrated in the Sacraments and other rites of the Church, with special attention to the sick and isolated in the parish. Also of concern to this committee are the devotional aspects of the parish’s life of prayer” (*On Consultation in the Parish and Deanery*, p.33). This presentation is meant to aid pastors and parishioners in beginning and maintaining sacred worship committees on the parish level as described in Bishop John Paul’s pastoral letter *On Consultation*.

### **What are the Components?**

This presentation discusses the nature of ecclesial consultation generally and the role of the sacred worship committee specifically, including: membership, frequency of meetings, agendas for meetings, and possible sub-committees.

### **When is this Training and Formation Held?**

These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

### **Who May Attend?**

Members of parish pastoral councils or sacred worship committees are encouraged to attend this formative presentation.

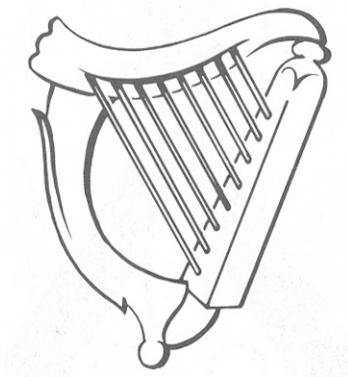
“The Sacred Worship Committee is to assist the Parish Pastoral Council in fostering, first and foremost, the liturgical life of the parish as celebrated on the Lord’s Day, in the sacraments and other rites of the church, with special attention to the sick and isolated in the parish. Also of concern to this committee are the devotional aspects of the parish’s life of prayer.”

*-On Consultation in the Parish and Deanery, Diocese of La Crosse*

# **Training/Formation:**

## ***Sacred Music:***

### ***A Treasure of Inestimable Value***



#### **What is the Purpose of the Formation in Sacred Music?**

Sacred music is an integral part of the liturgy, for the sacramental encounter with Christ fostered by song. *A Treasure of Inestimable Value* (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, n.112) attempts to air some of the current questions regarding Sacred Music and to discuss them according to their liturgical, historical, and pastoral perspectives.

#### **What are the Components?**

Sacred music is an integral part of the liturgy. Beyond this common agreement, views differ greatly. Take instruments, for example: should the organ, the guitar, the accordion, or the piano be preferred above the others? Or, regarding musical genre: should folk, chant, gospel, polyphony, or some other style be considered more appropriate than the others? And where should the choir be placed: in the loft, the sanctuary, or somewhere in between?

Taking the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* as its starting point, the presentation discusses some fundamental principles of sacred music as well as the language, styles, instruments, and texts of sacred music. Also emphasized are those parts which ought to be sung at Mass and how to evaluate a hymn or piece of music for congregational singing.

#### **When is this Training and Formation Held?**

These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

#### **Who May Attend?**

Parish musicians and all of the faithful are encouraged to attend this formative presentation.

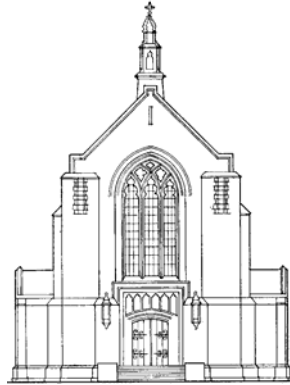
“The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.... Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when the divine offices are celebrated solemnly in song, with the assistance of sacred ministers and the active participation of the people.”

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Second Vatican Council, nos. 112-113*

# **Training/Formation:**

## ***Sacred Architecture:***

### ***Signs and Symbols of Heavenly Realities***



#### **What is the Purpose of the Formation in Sacred Architecture?**

Sacred Architecture raises us to the transcendent. The purpose of formation in Sacred Architecture is to examine how church buildings help us to lift our minds and hearts to God according to the Church's liturgy and faith. *Sacred Architecture: Signs and Symbols of Heavenly Realities* answers many current questions about our Church's architecture.

#### **What are the Components?**

Much has been said in the not-too-distant past about church buildings. "A church is the house of God." "A church is the house for the People of God." "A church is 'built of living stones.'" These and other statements from priests, liturgists, and church officials have led to such questions as "Should a church 'look like' a church?" And, if so, "What makes a church look like a church?" A PowerPoint presentation of over 100 slides, *Signs and Symbols of Heavenly Realities* (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, n.122) answers these questions.

Further, emphasizing both the functional and the sacramental dimensions of the church building, the origins and meanings of the various architectural symbols are discussed, as are the specific functions and symbols of the church's appointments (doors, altar, tabernacle, chair, etc.). Finally, for those parishes who are about to undertake a building or renovating project, practical aspects of the process are presented.

**When is this Training and Formation Held?** These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

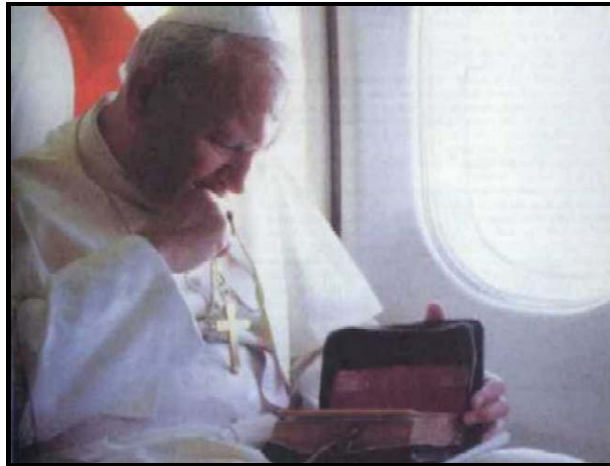
#### **Who May Attend?**

Members of parish building committees and all of the faithful are encouraged to attend this formative presentation.

"Holy Mother Church has therefore always been the friend of the fine arts and has ever sought their noble help, with the special aim that all things set apart for use in divine worship should be truly worthy, becoming, and beautiful, signs and symbols of the supernatural world."  
*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Second Vatican Council, nos. 122*

# **Training/Formation:**

## ***Praying the Liturgy of the Hours in the Parish***



### **What is the Purpose of the Training to Pray the Liturgy of the Hours?**

Praying the Liturgy of the Hours is a co-operation in the saving work of Christ made present and active in the Church's prayer. It is essential for the laity to be trained in praying the Liturgy of the Hours because this official prayer of the Church praises God, sanctifies us, and redeems the whole world. This presentation initiates the faithful into this prayer which is the "voice of the bride addressed to the bridegroom," in other words, the Church praising Christ.

### **What are the Components?**

The training includes an explanation of the theology of the Liturgy of the Hours, the liturgy and the place of sacred time in the liturgy's celebration is provided. It gives a thorough examination of the contents of the one-volume Christian Prayer book, the structure of the individual Hours of the Office (e.g., Morning Prayer, Night Prayer), and reviews a useful "decision tree" for choosing the correct texts for the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours.

### **When is this Training and Formation Held?**

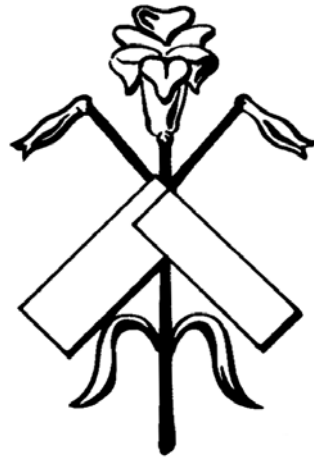
These sessions are held by request and on location in the parish or deanery.

### **Who May Attend?**

Any member of the faithful interested in joining in this universal prayer of the Church is encouraged to attend.

"By tradition going back to early Christian times, the divine office is devised so that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praises of God. Therefore, when this wonderful song of praise is rightly performed by priests and others who are deputed for this purpose by the Church's ordinance, or by the faithful praying together with the priest in the approved form, then it is truly the voice of the bride addressed to her bridegroom; it is the very prayer which Christ Himself, together with His body, addresses to the Father"  
-*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, Second Vatican Council, 84.

## Events: Televised Mass



### **What is the Purpose of the Televised Mass?**

The Mass is the highest form of prayer, since in it the sacrifice of Christ is made present before us. Through the televised Mass, thousands of temporarily or permanently homebound Catholics in our Diocese are able to view the Sunday Mass. This spiritual service is a tremendous comfort to those whose age or infirmity prevents them from going to their parish church for Mass. The Mass (or at least the readings and homily) is also available on the Diocesan website.

### **What are the Components of the Televised Mass?**

Local groups (e.g., parishes, schools, Knights of Columbus councils) supply music, readers, servers, and a congregation of at least 15 members. Two Masses are filmed by each group for future broadcasts among the eight stations in the Diocese.

### **When are the Televised Masses Celebrated?**

Televised Masses are usually celebrated on Tuesday or Thursday evenings throughout the year. Most Masses are celebrated at Christ the King Chapel in La Crosse. To suit the availability of groups, Masses can also be scheduled during the day or at other locations throughout the Diocese.

### **Who May Attend?**

Any parish or group that can supply the requisite ministers is welcome to participate.

“Of the many blessings that I have enjoyed during my time as Bishop of La Crosse, celebrating the Televised Mass with so many of the homebound members of the Diocese has surely been one of them. The power of prayer, especially that prayer centered around the Holy Eucharist, is the great force that brings us ever closer to the full glory of the Kingdom of God. The many letters and comments from throughout the Diocese are a testament to this: and I will cherish my memories of them and of you for years to come.”

*Archbishop ListECKI, Christmas Bulletin 2009*

# RCIA Resource Group



## **What is the Purpose of the RCIA Resource Group?**

The Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults leads men and women of today to encounter Christ in his Church, and RCIA Coordinators foster this journey. The meetings of the RCIA Resource Group are an occasion for RCIA Coordinators to share information, ask questions to the larger group, receive resources and strategies from the collective experience of the participants, and assist in making the RCIA process the best possible for those entering into the full communion of the Church. The topics discussed vary, but have included Marriage and Canonical issues in RCIA, the Liturgical Rites During Lent, and Understanding Non-Catholic Christian Beliefs and Practices.

## **What are the Components of RCIA Resource Group?**

The RCIA Resource generally meets for two hours. It begins with prayer, is followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at hand, and finally allows time for broader RCIA discussion and questions.

## **When does the RCIA Resource Group Meet?**

The RCIA Resource Group meets three times per year. If other RCIA offerings occur (e.g., at May "Faith Alive" Conference), these may substitute for the regular Resource Group meetings.

## **Who May Attend?**

RCIA Coordinators, DRE's, CRE's, parish liturgists, and other RCIA Team Members may attend.

"Catechists, who have an important office for the progress of the catechumens and for the growth of the community, should, whenever possible, have an active part in the rites. When deputed by the bishop, they may perform the minor exorcisms and blessings contained in the ritual. When they are teaching, catechists should see that their instruction is filled with the spirit of the Gospel, adapted to the liturgical signs and the cycle of the Church's year, suited to the needs of the catechumens, and as far as possible enriched by local traditions."

RCIA, 16

# Events:

## Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



### **What is the Purpose of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion?**

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion is a grace-filled event for those entering the Church and for the Church herself. “On the basis of the testimony of godparents and catechists and of the catechumens’ reaffirmation of their intention, the Church judges the candidates’ and catechumens’ state of readiness and decides on their advancement toward the sacraments of initiation. Thus the Church makes it ‘election,’ that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part, at the next major celebration, in the sacraments of initiation.” (RCIA, 119)

### **What are the Components of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion?**

(NB: In the Diocese of La Crosse, this Rite does not take place in the context of Mass) Homily / Presentation of the Catechumens / Affirmation by the Godparents and Assembly / Invitation and Enrolment of Names / Act of Admission or Election // Presentation of the Candidates / Affirmation by the Sponsors and Assembly / Act of Recognition / Intercessions for the Elect and the Candidates / Prayer Over the Elect and the Candidates / Blessing and Dismissal. A reception with the Bishop follows for all in attendance.

### **When is the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion?**

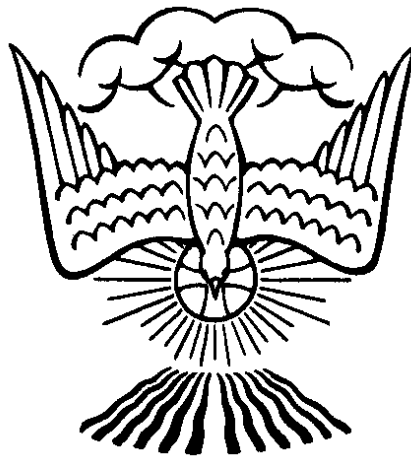
The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion take place on the First Sunday of Lent.

### **Who May Attend?**

All catechumens and godparents, candidates and sponsors, family, friends, parishioners, and members of the RCIA formation team should attend.

“The catechumenate for adults, comprising several distinct steps, is to be restored and to be taken into use.... By this, means the time of the catechumenate, which is intended as a period of suitable instruction, may be sanctified by sacred rites to be celebrated at successive intervals of time.”  
-*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Second Vatican Council, no.64*

## Events: Chrism Mass



### **What is the Purpose of the Chrism Mass?**

During the Mass of Chrism, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens will be blessed and the Sacred Chrism will be consecrated for use throughout the diocese in the administration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick. The annual Mass of Chrism is celebrated by the Bishop and concelebrated by the priests of the Diocese at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse.

### **What are the Components of the Chrism Mass?**

The Chrism Mass follows the general structure of any Mass, with the addition of the renewal of priestly vows following the homily and the blessing of the oils and consecration of the Chrism immediately following the renewal of vows.

### **When is the Chrism Mass?**

The Chrism Mass is held on Holy Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

### **Who May Attend?**

Laity, men and women religious, Catholic School students, deacons and priests from throughout the Diocese are welcome and encouraged to attend.

“The bishop is to be considered as the high priest of his flock, from whom the life in Christ of his faithful is in some way derived and dependent. Therefore all should hold in great esteem the liturgical life of the diocese centered around the bishop, especially in his cathedral church; they must be convinced that the pre-eminent manifestation of the Church consists in the full active participation of all God’s holy people in these liturgical celebrations, especially in the same Eucharist, in a single prayer, at one altar, at which there presides the bishop surrounded by his college of priests and by his ministers.”  
*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Second Vatican Council, no.41*

# Events:

## Corpus Christi Procession



### **What is the Purpose of the Diocesan *Corpus Christi* Procession?**

The *Corpus Christi* procession, most often held on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, is to be a “public profession of faith and worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament” (*Roman Ritual*). Founded upon the Church’s belief that Jesus becomes entirely present to us in the Eucharist at Mass, the *Corpus Christi* procession is one of the ways that we express our devotion to Christ (Eucharistic adoration, Forty Hours devotions, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament are some other forms of devotion).

### **What are the Components of the Diocesan *Corpus Christi* Procession?**

A *Corpus Christi* procession usually begins after the celebration of Mass, at which the host for the procession is consecrated. Placed in a monstrance (a sacred vessel that displays the sacred host to the faithful), the Blessed Sacrament is then carried out of the church and through the streets of the city or neighborhood accompanied the songs and prayers of the people. There are oftentimes decorated altars along the route where the monstrance is placed and the people are blessed. In this way the Church shows that Christ, here among us, walks with us on our pilgrimage to heaven.

### **When is the Diocesan *Corpus Christi* Procession Held?**

The annual procession takes place on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, which is the Second Sunday after Pentecost. The Diocesan Procession is held in La Crosse or one of the other cities in the Diocese. Local parishes are also encouraged to hold the procession following the principle Mass of the Day.

### **Who May Attend?**

All members of the Diocese are encouraged to attend.

“The devout participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is a grace from the Lord which yearly brings joy to those who take part in it”  
-*The Church draws Her Life from the Eucharist*, Encyclical Letter, Pope John Paul II, n.10

## Resources: Office of Sacred Worship



### **Norms for the Construction and Ordering of Church Buildings in the Diocese of La Crosse**

The *Norms for the Construction and Ordering of Church Buildings in the Diocese of La Crosse* was promulgated by Bishop ListECKI on October 4, 2006 and became effective November 9, 2006. These norms apply to all churches and chapels within the Diocese of La Crosse that begin a new church building project or seek to reorder an existing church or its constituent parts. The document not only offers a summary of particular and universal legislation on sacred architecture, but also explains the theological meaning of church building, its various parts, and its sacred appointments.

### **Materials for the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a devotional practice wherein an image of the Sacred Heart is enthroned in a prominent place in a home, church, school, business or other area of human activity. The enthronement is a public proclamation of the rule of the Heart of Jesus over the persons and activities of the place, is an act of reparation for the offenses committed against his Heart, and, by the prayer of consecration, is a pledge to honor the Sacred Heart in the future. Resources for the Enthronement's preparation, celebration, and continued devotion to Jesus and his Sacred Heart are available through the Office of Sacred Worship.

### **RCIA Leader and Catechetical Resources**

To assist pastors and their staffs in carrying out the RCIA in the parish, the Office of Sacred Worship provides RCIA resources, including the Association for Catechumenal Ministry's (ACM) *Leader's Manual*, *Catechist Manual*, *Participant Book*, and *Godparent and Sponsor Handbook*, as well as the Diocese's own *RCIA Catechist Manual*.

### **Liturgical Norms**

The Office of Sacred Worship provides copies of Vatican and USCCB norms, such as the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship*. Diocesan norms are also available on certain topics, including *On the Christian Burial of the Dead*, *Revised Norms for Leaders of Prayer*, and instructions *On the Celebration of Mass for Special Occasions*.

## Preparation for Infant Baptism



### **What is the Purpose of the Baptismal Preparation Program?**

In the Sacrament of Baptism, a person becomes a child of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Preparation Program for Infant Baptism is to help the parents and godparents to understand the meaning of the gestures and words as well as the grace actually received by the newly baptized baby. The mother and father hear of their responsibility to teach their child to know and love Jesus Christ through handing on the Faith, through prayer and through Christian living in the context of the family.

### **What are the Components?**

The Preparation for Infant Baptism consists of catechesis on the Rite of Baptism as well as Parenting Skills. There are four sessions, two hours in length, containing the following content:

- 1) God's Gift of a Child to You / Embracing Parenthood
- 2) God's Love for You / What Kind of Parent do You want to be?
- 3) Becoming a Child of God / Creating the Church of the Home
- 4) Prayer and Relationship with God / Parents and Family

### **For Whom is the Baptismal Preparation Program Intended?**

The Preparation for Infant Baptism is a program for use in the parish. It is intended for parents who desire to have their baby baptized. The baby's godparents are also to be part of this preparation. Note: The Baptismal Preparation Program is currently being piloted in several parishes. It will be ready for use throughout the Diocese in January 2011.

“Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift...We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called *gift* because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; *grace* since it is given even to the guilty; *Baptism* because sin is buried in the water; *anointing* for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; *enlightenment* because it radiates light; *clothing* since it veils our shame; *bath* because it washes; and *seal* as it is our guard and the sign of God’s Lordship.”  
-St. Gregory of Nanzianus, as quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 1216