

Suggested January Ritual Mass

First Holy Communion

Background

January presents an opportunity for children preparing for First Holy Communion to focus on two aspects of their preparation for First Holy Communion.

- (i) The children visit their local church and familiarise themselves with the layout and contents of the church and the sacred vessels used for the celebration of Mass. Alternatively, the attached worksheet can be distributed to the children in advance of the designated First Holy Communion Ritual Mass, where they complete the worksheet with their parents, and it is collected after Mass.

- (ii) More importantly, a visit to the church/classroom should recall for their celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. The encounter should focus on the baptism of Jesus, its meaning, the symbols and prayers used in the celebration of the Sacrament, and the baptismal area in the church. Specific attention should be drawn to the celebration of the next sacrament in their journey of faith, the Sacrament of First Confession, and why they need to avail of the Sacrament after Baptism.

Preparation for the Ritual Mass

Option 1. During a classroom visit/visit to the local church in advance of the Ritual Mass, explain to the children the purpose of the worksheet. The children will be invited to observe the items used during the celebration of Sunday Mass (What Do You See?) and they tick off the various items. To avoid every item being ticked, there is a space for the priest to include something unique/specific to that particular celebration of Mass (for example, the Book of the Gospels, Ambry, Confession Box, etc). The children are given some time after Mass to complete the worksheet and they are collected by an adult/the priest.

Option 2.

The children are invited to complete the attached Baptism card and to bring it to Mass where they will be collected. During the Mass, the Paschal Candle should be placed in a prominent place and along with their parents (The homily may reference Baptism, preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion, stressing the importance of the role of parents and godparents). After the homily, the children, their parents and the entire congregation renew their Baptismal Promises before the Prayers of the Faithful.

Name: _____

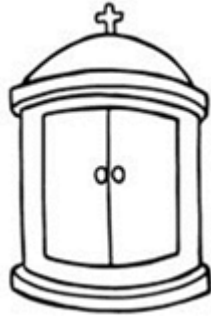


WHAT DO YOU SEE?

During the celebration of Sunday Mass, pay attention to the liturgical items used to celebrate Mass. With the help of your parents tick off or colour the box next to each item you notice.



Monstrance



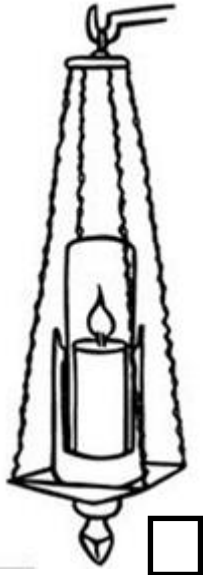
Tabernacle



Crucifix



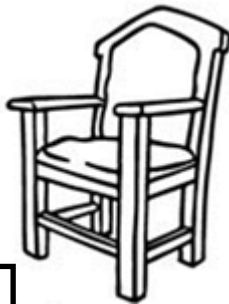
Stations of the Cross



Sanctuary Lamp



Stained Glass Window



Presider's Chair



Baptism Font



Organ



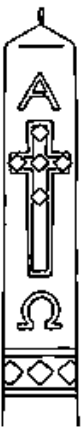
Chalice



Cruets



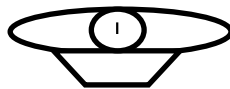
Votive Candles



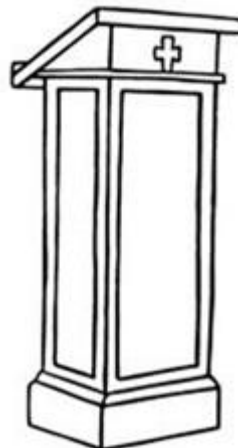
Paschal Candle



Hymn Book



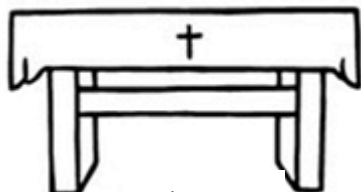
Paten



Ambo



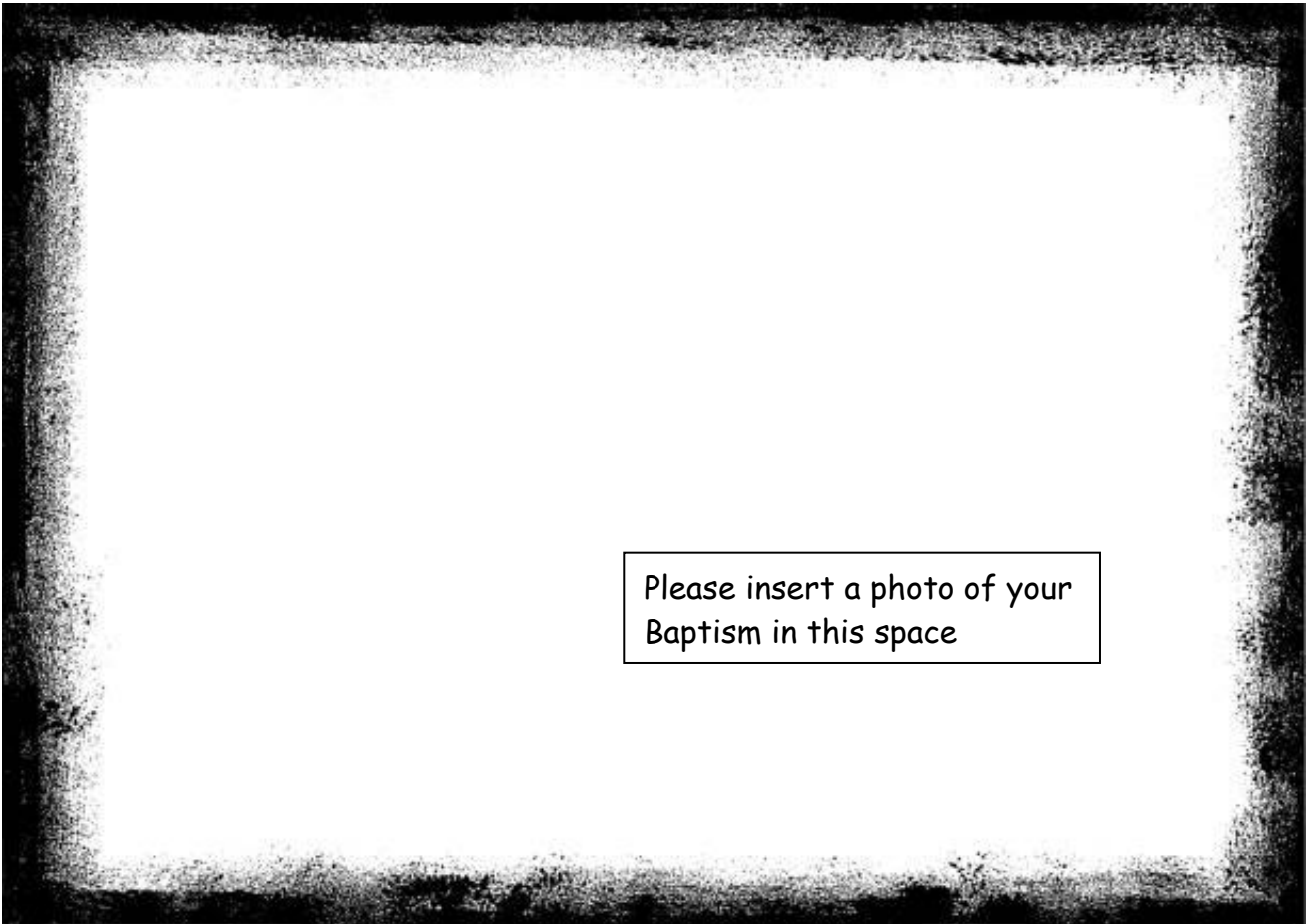
Statue



Altar



My Baptism



I, _____ (name) was baptised on
_____ (date) in the Church of
_____ (name of church) by Fr.
_____ .

My parents/guardians are _____
and _____.

My Godparents are _____ and
_____.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The Priest addresses the faithful in these or similar words:

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his works?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

And the Priest concludes:

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All: Amen.

The Prayers of the Faithful follow.

Sample Prayers of the Faithful

1. For children preparing for First Holy Communion, their parents who support them, their teachers who instruct them, and our community who prays for them. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For all the baptised: may they grow in their love of Christ and faithfully witness to the faith they profess by the example of their lives. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For parents and godparents: may the Holy Spirit set them on fire with love for God, and may they faithfully pass on the faith to their children. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For the children preparing for the celebration of the First Confession. May they experience the merciful love and forgiveness of Christ. **Lord, hear us.**