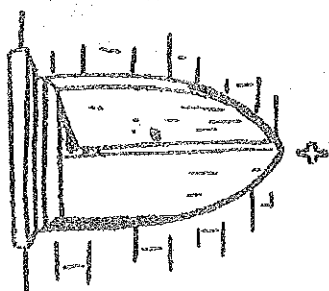


ABOUT BAPTISM

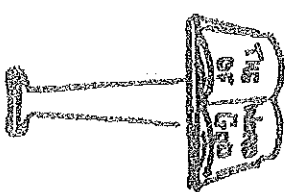
THE DOOR

Baptism is like a door opened for your new baby. It is the entry into New Life - the first step in the journey of faith as a member of the family of the Church. Parents, godparents, family, friends, priests, catechists etc., are there to see and share in that first step. Parents and godparents speak for the child as they declare their own faith.



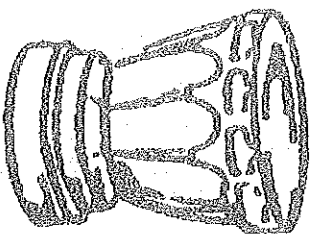
THE LECTERN

God speaks to us in many ways, but especially in Sacred Scripture (the Bible). We respond to God speaking to us by praying that the child will be open to God's love always.



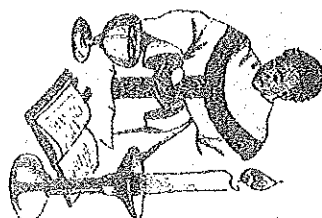
THE FONT

In the Sacraments, God uses ordinary, everyday things to give us the special gift of his love. Through the sin of Adam (known as Original Sin) man alienated himself from God. In Baptism, water is used because it is a sign of being washed clean of original sin, restoring our life of friendship with God, and quenching our thirst for God. In Baptism the symbol of water is used because it is a sign of giving life, washing clean, quenching our thirst. Other signs of these effects are also used: Chrism, Candle, White Garment.



THE ALTAR

The altar is a symbol of God, and is the place around which we gather to offer our prayer of praise and thanksgiving (the Mass). Baptism enables us to share in this prayer. We look forward to the time when your child will be able to share fully with the parish community through the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.



PREPARATION

VISIT - A representative of the parish will visit your home, to welcome you to the beginning of the parish programme. This visit will be an opportunity to get to know you and to answer any questions you may have.

MEETING - Parents and Godparents will be asked to attend a preparation meeting at the Cathedral. The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism will take place the following month by arrangement with the member of the clergy who will be conducting the Baptism.

FOLLOW-UP

As members of this parish community, you will already be involved in the life of the parish by your attendance at Sunday Mass. There are many other ways in which you can benefit from membership of our community. We hope that you and your family will become more involved.