

B A P T I S M

Are you thinking about Baptism for your child? This time of anticipation and preparation is unique since no one has given birth to someone with exactly the same personality, circumstances of life, relationships, loves or concerns as you have right now. You, as parents, are special; your child is special; as is the Sacrament that you are requesting.

At birth, this new person is not a finished product but begins a life-long journey. As Christians we believe that just as we came from God, this life journey will lead us back to God. As parents we want to surround this new person with care and love... and so does God. He pledges fidelity to each person, from the very beginning of life to the very end ... through baptism.

We parents do not keep our child's birth hidden ... we share our joys anxieties about our child with relatives and friends. As Christian parents we are part of community of believers who also want to share in that joy of new life. We, at Our Lady of Fatima community are pleased to welcome this new person and we pledge to surround your child with our care and love and pledge to assist you in the challenging task of helping your child discover the richness of Jesus Christ in whose image we are all made.

At baptism, parents promise to accept the responsibility of training their child in the practice of the faith. This does not start when he "takes religion" at school. Rather, the baby's early childhood and home atmosphere are much more influential. During these years, the child is almost totally dependent on his parents. His Christian life starts immediately at Baptism. What his parents do, he will imitate in his own way. All children pattern their lives according to parental example and the immediate surroundings of the home. This also hold true for his faith development after Baptism. So as your prepare for the baptism of your child, you will want to reflect on your own relationship to God, your habits, attitudes and practices.

The sponsors whom you choose, also promise to help you in your duty as Christian parents. The Church's guidelines for the sponsor are (i) one sponsor is sufficient; (ii) be not less than 16 years of age (iii) have received all of the sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church himself (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) (iv) lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken (v) not be mother or father of the one to be baptized.

*In choosing a name for your child, there has long been a Christian tradition to give, as one of the names, a Saint's name for whom you have a particular fondness. The only requirement for this however, is that it **not** be a name contrary to Christian beliefs.*

We invite you to contact the Parish as soon as possible so that the Parish Baptism Preparation Team can begin the paperwork and preparation phase and advise you about any requirements that might need to be fulfilled.

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