



Dear Parents,

I rejoice with you in the gift of new life your family has been blessed to receive from Almighty God. I look forward to rejoicing even more as your child receives the gift of 'New Life' in the Sacrament of Baptism. Recognizing the importance of Baptism to the totality of our Christian lives, I view the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament as an opportunity to lead every individual connected to this moment (parents, godparents, family and friends) into a deeper living out of their own Baptism, that is, to recognizing the dignities and responsibilities of the Christian life.

During the Rite of Baptism, the Celebrant will say the following to parents and godparents:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Godparents, are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?

Given these duties and responsibilities, Pastors are charged with judging whether parents and godparents are qualified for their role. The Church's Code of Canon Law establishes the qualifications for these roles.

For Parents (Canon 868.2): "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such hope is altogether lacking baptism is to be delayed ..."

*Meaning parents are to be living out the faith and attending Mass.*

For Godparents (Canon 874.1):

Be 16 years of age

Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

Leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on

Not be bound by any canonical penalty.

To ensure these qualifications are understood, please read, complete and return the enclosed forms; completed forms must be returned to the Parish Office at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled Baptism. The form for godparents requires a signature from their parish pastor. Situations of Cohabitation and/or Catholics married outside of the Church prevent someone from being a godparent according the law stated above. However, I welcome the opportunity to work with individuals in remedying these situations.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at the parish office. Know of my continued prayers as you welcome your child and prepare for Baptism.

In Christ,

Rev. Matthew R. Rader, Pastor