

Pastor's Message to Parents



We are delighted that you are seeking Baptism for your child and we, your parish community, share in the joy of this celebration with you.

Baptism begins the initiation process into the fullness of the Catholic faith. It is an ancient Catholic rite that for many is almost an automatic reflex. Even parents whose practice of the faith is not strong will think of having their child baptized. Or grandparents will pressure parents to have their grandchild baptized.

Because readiness for Baptism is often assumed, we are in danger of taking it for granted or 'doing it' for social, cultural, or family reasons.

As pastor, I would like to reflect with you about the meaning of all this.

1. When you got married in the Catholic Church, you made a promise to raise as good Christians the children whom God will give you.
2. Now at the Baptism of your child, be it your first or your fourth, is a time of grace; and an ideal time for you to review and renew what you have already committed on the day of your own Baptism, what you have renewed on your Confirmation and what you have promised on the day of your Catholic marriage--to live your faith and to raise your children in that same faith.

I share these reflections with you, in part to challenge you, but even more because you and your child are important to God. Your child is eligible for baptism at this time because of you. I support and affirm you in your desire to pass on our faith to your child. St. Benedict pastoral staff is here to help you in this responsibility.

To assist you in the preparations of this joyful sacrament, please:

- *read through this booklet,*
- *complete the Baptism Registration Form and Parents' Reflecting Faith Questionnaire*
- *return the completed Registration Form and Questionnaire to the parish office.*

After this material is received by the office, you will be contacted by myself or Deacon Peter to set up an appointment to discuss our faith and give details leading up to your child's baptism.

May this time of preparation for your child's baptism be a grace-filled time for you and your family -- a time of renewal, refreshment, and new life in the Spirit.

You are in my prayers.



Reverend James Berning SDB
Pastor