



**TO PARENT/S OR LEGAL GUARDIAN/S WISHING TO HAVE THEIR
CHILD/CHILDREN BAPTIZED**
A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations and welcome! You have been blessed with a wonderful new life!

We welcome for your child/children to an even more wonderful new life through Baptism. You have entered an important and rewarding time in your life. And you have made a decision to consider Baptism for your child/children. Passing on the Church's faith in the love of God and the values taught to us by Jesus Christ are among the most important things you can do as a parent to help your child/children develop into a well-rounded individual and to become the person that God has created that child/children to be. This decision is a very important one. It requires a lot of careful consideration on your part.

A Sacrament is a unique experience of the Grace of God that leaves us changed for the better. Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to ***“Go out and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19)***. Because a Sacrament is a special encounter with God, meant to strengthen our life of discipleship, the Church needs to prepare the person celebrating the sacrament to be properly disposed to experience it. ***The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary and indispensable teachers of their child/children in both the matter and ways of faith. It is by our faith and practice that you provide an essential key for your child's/children's faith-filled entrance into the Body of Christ.***

You as a parent requesting Baptism for your child/children is invited to recognize that you are part of a faith community entrusted with the handing on of faith. The “faith” in question is not just a vague sense of the mystery of life's meaning or a dim notion of a Supreme Being; rather is quite specifically a faith in and relationship with Jesus Christ, the supreme revelation of God! Your challenge as a Catholic parent/s is to lead child/children to a true and real relationship with God amid the People of God.

To make this an informed decision and a meaningful choice for your family and especially for the faith life of your child/children, we have some directives that are intended to help you understand the responsibilities that are yours and those that pertain to the church. We need to make sure that the child's/children's parents fully understand the significance of the sacrament and their duties to help the child grow into a serious Christian who actively practices the faith of the Church.

I am looking forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Christ and the Church with your family.

May God's blessing be upon us all.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Fernan Serrano
Pastor