

Dear Parents:

Your child's baptism into the Catholic faith is a time for great joy and celebration. The very fact that you have asked to have your child baptized shows that you recognize the importance of God in your life and seek to pass on the Catholic heritage to your child. The Church - in particular, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish - rejoices with you as you make arrangements for your baby's baptismal date.

Since your child is too young to speak for him/herself, the Church allows you to answer the questions of faith asked during the Sacrament of Baptism. In order to assist you in your child's faith development, enclosed is a Catholic Update that explains the Sacrament of Baptism. In addition a baptismal session for first time parents (or parents who have never attended a baptismal preparation session) is required prior to the baptism of your child. Please call Deacon Mark Kuhn (extension 176) to register for the session that you wish to attend.

From her earliest days the Church has realized that the newly baptized would benefit from additional support in their faith life from a member of the Church community called a godparent. Even though the Church requires only one godparent, it is permissible to select a godmother and a godfather to assist you in your role as the primary teachers of your child's faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church cites that a godparent is someone who is "a firm believer, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life." It is expected, therefore, that a godparent be a practicing Catholic, at least be 16 years old, have no canonical impediments, and attend the baptismal session with the parent(s).

If the godparent is not a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, he/she must obtain a letter of eligibility from his/her parish which states that this person is a practicing Catholic. Please complete the baptismal information envelope (included in this package) and place the letter(s) of eligibility inside this envelope. Return the completed envelope to the Trinity Center no later than two weeks prior to the date of baptism. An offering of \$70 (\$35 from parents; \$35 from godparents) is suggested.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and God's blessings on you and your family as you prepare for this important and happy occasion in your child's life.

Sincerely,

Fr. Robert G. Suskey, Pastor  
Fr. John J. Kilgallon, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Mark J. Kuhn