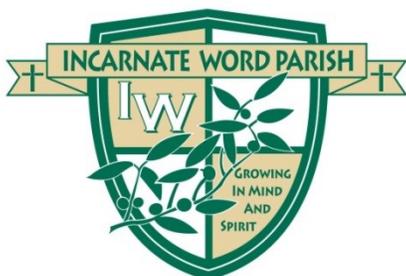


Keeping the Light of Faith Burning after Baptism

Receive the light of Christ.

*Parents and Godparents, **this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly.** This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He is to walk always as a child of the light. May he keep the flame of faith alive in in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.*

- Rite of Baptism for Children, §100 -



Your Child's Sacramental Timeline as a member of the Body of Christ:

2021
Baptism



2029
(2nd grade)
First Reconciliation
and First Communion



2035
(8th grade)
Confirmation



Adulthood

Listening for God's call to the vocation of single life,
consecrated religious life, marriage, or ordained priesthood

Lifelong

Receiving Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly
Listening for God's call to holiness

Parents as Primary Catechists

By having your child baptized, you are accepting the responsibility of ensuring that your children can take full advantage of their membership in Christ's Body, the Church.

(Actually, if you were married within the Church, you already accepted this!)

Your child's understanding of the importance and meaning of these sacraments as opportunities for grace will come primarily from you. Religious education and school programs are at best a supplement — what sticks with your children will depend on your attitude and commitment to faith.

Remember, your family, friends, and parish are called to help you shoulder this responsibility.

Pope Francis reminds us of St. Paul's words from Romans 6:

"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

The Pope continues,

*"Therefore, Baptism is not a mere formality! A baptized child is not the same as a child who is not baptized; a baptized person is not the same as one who has not received baptism. **It is an act that touches the depth of our existence.** We are immersed in that inexhaustible fount of life that is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love of all history; and thanks to this love we are able to live a new life, no longer at the mercy of evil, sin and death, but rather in communion with God and with our brothers."*

***"The glory of God is a human being fully alive,
and the life of man consists in beholding God."***

-St. Irenaeus of Lyons

"If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire."

- St. Catherine of Siena

This baptism is the beginning of your child's unique path to sainthood and his or her new life in Christ, becoming a part of His Body, the Church.

With your help, your child will grow into living this life.



Baptism



Confirmation



Eucharist



Reconciliation



Matrimony



Holy Orders



Anointing of the Sick

Godparents for Life

To be given to the godparent

Congratulations!

The relationship between a godchild and godparent is unique and lifelong. You are embarking on a special journey, one that will last years.

On the day of Baptism, the Church asks the godparent if he or she is ready to assist the parents in raising the child in the practice of the faith. The role of the godparent is not limited to the day of Baptism. The Church invites you to be an active presence in the life of your godchild.

Weekly participation in the Sunday Eucharist is foundational to our lives as Catholics and is the center of our lives. **As a godparent, your primary role is to model what it means to live as a Catholic Christian.**

The following suggestions may assist you in your role as godparent:

- ◆ Pray for your godchild each day.
- ◆ Visit regularly with your godchild, if possible.
- ◆ Begin a sacramental scrapbook for your godchild. Later, you can work on it together.
- ◆ Write a letter to your godchild telling him or her how you felt on the day of the Baptism. Keep the letter until the child is older.
- ◆ Send a letter or a visit each year on the anniversary of your godchild's Baptism. (It is their birthday into eternal life, after all!)
- ◆ Whenever possible, you and your godchild should participate in the Sunday liturgy and other liturgical celebrations together.
- ◆ It is important for a godparent to continue to grow in his or her faith; therefore, please take advantage of retreats, special workshops or presentations, or opportunities to grow in prayer.



As you journey with your godchild, may both of you discover more and more about the mystery of God's abiding love.