

The Gift of Baptism

Baptism is a gift for your child, as well as your whole family and the Catholic Church. When your child is baptized, the grace of the sacrament brings "new life" in Christ that remains eternally.

You have chosen to have your child baptized, which is a sign of your faith in God and of the love you have for your child. Keep in mind that God also has faith in you. Every child is a sign of how much trust God has in parents, not just to love and care for the children, but to show them how great God's love is for everyone.

"How much God must love you and trust you ... to have entrusted to your care that which is most precious to God in the whole world: God's own children."

— Fr. Joe Kempf —



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We believe that God has wonderfully made every person and calls us each by name. In baptism we join the community of the faithful and together we work to build God's kingdom on earth, as in heaven. Our mission, then, is to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ with our families and with the universal Church. In doing so, God's love becomes visible to all people just as Jesus revealed God's love in his life and death.

On the day of the baptism you will bring your child to church with the child's godparents (sponsors). Other close friends and family members may wish to join you. The baptism may take place during Mass with the parish community or at a separately designated time in the church. It is important that you be prepared, not just for this one day of celebrating the sacrament, but by taking the time to be fully aware of your role in your child's faith development.



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One Faith, One Baptism, One Family in Christ

This booklet provides some basic instruction to help you prepare for the rite of baptism, and you will always have the opportunity to ask at your parish for specific information. Whether you are bringing your first child to be baptized or have previously prepared for the baptism of another child, you may have questions about the sacrament.

The sacraments are acts of the whole Church, celebrated together in order to deepen our awareness of Christ's presence in our lives. Three of the seven sacraments are called the sacraments of initiation:

Baptism
Eucharist
Confirmation

The Sacrament of Baptism opens the door to receive the other sacraments. As children grow up, they watch and imitate their parents, the first examples of faith in action. From generation to generation faith in Jesus Christ remains alive in the love we share with one another and with the world.

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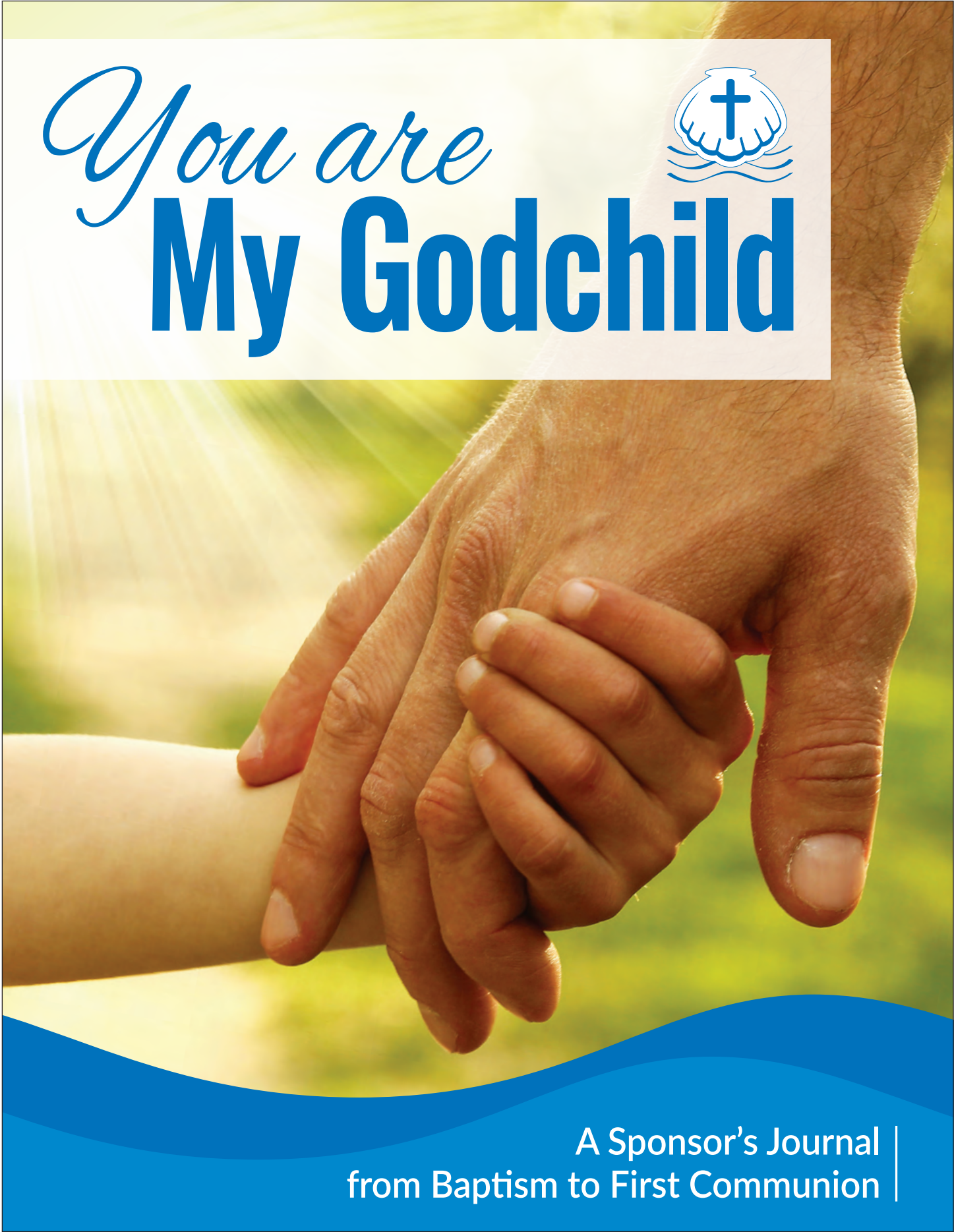
You may have already sensed that your pastor (or his delegate) is keenly interested in the sincerity of your faith. The foundation of children's faith development, especially in the early years, depends on their parents' commitment to continue teaching them about Jesus and to create an environment that invites the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts.

Your child's journey of faith formally begins with baptism. No matter how active you have been in your prayer life or how often you have participated in the sacraments prior to the day of the baptism, you will make a promise to teach your child by regularly practicing your faith. The Church, in turn, makes a promise to be with you on this journey.

We are not believers in Jesus because we have been baptized and receive the sacraments. Rather, because of our belief in Jesus we desire to be one in faith with others as the Body of Christ. Baptism is the outward symbol of our promise to live and act as members of the Body of Christ. We follow Christ in how we live our lives with the support of one another.

The gift of Baptism for your child remains with them forever. In the words of Pope Francis, "the greatest inheritance that you can give your children is faith."

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You are My Godchild



A Sponsor's Journal
from Baptism to First Communion

Preparing to Be Your Godparent

Before accepting the invitation to be a godparent, I knew I needed God's grace to guide you on your journey of faith. This booklet is filled with my prayers and thoughts for you as you journey from your Baptism toward First Communion.

When I pray, I most often ...

My prayer when I was invited to be a godparent:

My hopes and dreams for you on your journey of faith:

Baptism in God's Word

These scripture passages helped me prepare to be a godparent.

I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them.
— Ezekiel 36:25-27 —

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.
— Romans 6:3-4 —

For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
— Galatians 3:26-28 —

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
— Mark 1:9-11 —

In these scripture passages, I hear God calling me to ...

My Catholic Faith

The church I attend regularly is:

I serve my parish in the following ways:

My participation in Sunday Mass and the Eucharist are important parts of my journey because:

Faith in Jesus Christ calls me to love and serve others, especially the poor I meet along the way. I have tried to follow in Jesus' footsteps by:

My Promise as a Godparent

- I am ready to help your parents teach you about Jesus.
- I will protect you from temptation.
- I will pray for you.
- I will be a witness to you of Christian living.

Looking back on my journey so far, I remember the times when my faith grew and my love for Jesus was deepened. I want to share those times with you.

The lives of the saints teach us how to stay faithful to Christ, especially when the journey is most difficult. These are the saints that inspire me:

My First

BIBLE Storybook



From Matthew 22:35-40
One of them [a scholar of the law] tested [Jesus] by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

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The **TEN** Commandments

Moses climbed a mountain high.
And met with God up near the sky.
Moses came back down one day,
Glad to share what God did say.

From that mountain high above,
God taught us to live and love.
God wrote down what we should do,
Good commands for me and you.

Worship God with all your heart.
Go to church and do your part.
Love your family and your friends.
Do not hurt or steal from them.

Do the things that God commands.
Put your life in God's strong hands.
When you act with faith and love,
You feel close to God above.

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From Luke 18:15-17
People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus, however, called the children to himself and said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

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JESUS and the Children

Little children came to see
Jesus talking by a tree.
They heard Jesus say, "It's true.
I love every one of you."

Little children on the hill
wanted to get closer still.
But they heard the disciples say,
"Little children, go away!"

Little children stood and cried.
Jesus saw them at his side.
Jesus said, "Disciples, no!
Do not make the children go."

"Little children, come to me.
Let me set you on my knee.
Whether big or very small,
God loves children, one and all."

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Keepsake Calendar of Baby's Faith Milestones



JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH
APRIL MAY JUNE
JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



ONEMonth

I AM GROWING!

My weight: _____ lbs. _____ oz.

My length: _____ inches

My favorite things:



Some things I need . . .

- I prefer looking at your face over other objects
- I will cry sometimes to let you know I am hungry.
- I like you to hold me.
- Say prayers with me.
- I like to hear your voice.

You can expect me to . . .

- Let you know when I am uncomfortable.
- Turn my head to the sound of your voice as you pray with me.
- Cry and move in different ways to indicate my needs.
- Stare at high-contrast colors (red, black, white).
- Lift my head briefly

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” *Matthew 19:14*

Dear Jesus, help me to always come to you! Amen.



Rejoice in the Lord

Born _____

Child of _____

IS BAPTIZED
IN THE NAME of the FATHER and
of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT



Witness _____ Pastor _____

Witness _____ Date _____

For all of you who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.
Galatians 3:27



Rejoice in the Lord

_____ has been named as SPONSOR in

the SACRAMENT
of BAPTISM



Name of Baptized _____

Date _____

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me...
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14



God's promise to you
in baptism is sure:
He will never forget
that you are his child.

HAPPY BAPTISM DAY!

For the promise is made to you and to your children...,
whomever the Lord our God will call.
Acts 2:39



... full of life and wonder.

Praise God for
bouncing and climbing and
running and dancing and
laughing and love.

Happy Baptismal Birthday!

I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works! My very self you know.
Psalms 139:14



With your happy heart
and willing spirit,
YOU are God's messenger!

HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY!

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8