

# A Plan of Faith for Our Family

Mom's name and religion:

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Dad's name and religion:

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Children's names and birthdates:

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Child to be baptized name and birthdate:

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## Baptism

Is the first step of initiation into the Church – the body of Christ. Infants are totally dependent on their parents for their wellbeing. Infants as they grow up borrow their faith from their parents until they are old enough to make it their own. The Church requires that at least one parent is Catholic, registered at the parish and regularly attends Mass. Canon law paragraph 868 states that there ***must be a founded hope*** that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith; if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed.

**Godparents:** Parents should carefully choose godparents who will help share the faith with the child and will be a good role model. Canon law paragraph 874 states that sponsors must be at least 16 years of age, Confirmed, made their First Communion and be a practicing, registered Catholic. If the godparent(s) are not members of Holy Trinity Parish, then a letter or email from the pastor of the godparent is needed stating membership and activity.

**Parents:** Are the first teachers of the faith to their children. In the Rite of Baptism parents are addressed, *“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”*

Below are some questions to help you make plans and goals for the future of your child's faith and the faith of your family. This is not a test so do not worry if you find something too difficult to answer. We will be talking about a lot of these things in the Baptism class.

**Considering the promise you are making when you have your child baptized and thinking about your journey of faith in Jesus Christ and His Church, about the faith life of your children, and the ultimate**

**needs for their future, what would be some of our goals of faith for them? What is it that you want for them?**

Immediate Goals:

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Long Term Goals:

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*Answer the questions below to help you reflect on your faith life and faith goals for the future?*

- What does the sacrament of Baptism mean to you?
- Who introduced you to Jesus?
- When did you first have a relationship with Jesus?
- When have you felt closest to Jesus?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus to others?
- How is your relationship with Jesus expressed through the Church? What is the connection?
- What is the single biggest difference your relationship with Jesus has made in your life?

*Thinking about our parents' lives....*

- Who introduced your parents to Jesus?
- When/where did you most witness your parent's faith in Jesus and in His Church?
- How would you describe your parents' relationship with Jesus?
- What was your families' experience of Church?
- Name a difference that Jesus and/or the Church made in the life of your family.

*In order for our children to teach their children – our grandchildren – about Jesus and His Church, what is it that we need to do? How will we teach our children about Jesus Christ and Church so they will in turn have something to pass on to the next generation of our family? How can we teach our children*

about Jesus/Church so they can follow the ways of Jesus in our society and in our world? If we do not teach them to follow Jesus...who will they follow?

Actions speak louder than words. Our actions must match our words in order to be credible witnesses. Name some things you will plan/hope to do to ensure that your children will have the necessary tools/skills to live a life of faith in Jesus and in His Church.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Think about how you should, as parents, prioritize your life in regard to your faith journey. Answer the following questions:

- a. what do we need to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. what do we want to do right now? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. what should we not do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our journey of faith is a lifelong process. It is a gradual process that is individual and yet communal. God does not send us on the journey alone. He calls us into relationship with Him and with each other. We are support by the Church. We are the Church. 😊

“Therefore, take these words of mine into your heart and soul. Bind them at your wrist as a sign, and let them be a pendant on your forehead. Teach them to your children, speaking of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. And write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, you and your children may live on in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers he would give them.” Deuteronomy 11:18-21

7/20 TST