

A decorative border with floral motifs in the corners and center, enclosed in a double-line rectangular frame.

*Baptismal
Preparation Kit*

- Merciful Redeemer Parish -

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Associate Pastor: Fr. Iguintz Calixte (associate1@mercifulredeemer.org)

Baptism Process Summary

1. Register with the parish through our website.
2. Fill out the BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM that is attached to this package. Book a meeting with one of the priests and bring the package with you.
3. Provide a copy of the Catholic Baptism certificate of either parent, copies of the Baptismal certificates of the chosen godparents and the birth certificate of the child to be baptized.
4. All parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism preparation class. These classes are held on the last Monday of every other month in the church basement from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Contact the parish office to book your class.

On the day of Baptism

- Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 2:00 p.m. Please be on time. There is No restriction on numbers and masks are NOT mandatory.
- We baptize up to eight families' children at a time - There is a pew reserved for the family with your child's name tag on it.
- Please write your name and address on the donation envelope, so that you can be credited accordingly at the end of the year. The suggested donation for this celebration is \$100.

**Thank you for your support and generosity.
We wish you all a wonderful celebration of faith!**

First of all, welcome to Merciful Redeemer Parish; a young, vibrant parish in the heart of Erin Mills!

We are so delighted that you are considering the baptism of your child in our church and hope to make this most important sacrament a spirit-filled event for you and your family. Below are a few things you need to do to assist us in guiding you through our baptismal preparation program towards the wonderful event of the baptism itself.

The baptism of your child, whether it is your first or your fourth, is a very special opportunity for you as parents and godparents to renew and reaffirm your own faith. Our belief is that baptism begins the child's initiation into the Church of Christ, and onwards toward the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

To help you become fully aware of the significance; we ask you to consider three simple steps as preparation:

- 1. Please read and discuss the materials found in this package with your spouse and godparents.*
- 2. Attend the Baptismal Catechetical Session which outlines the Church's understanding of the sacrament. The Godparents that you have chosen for your child are also strongly encouraged to attend.*
- 3. Chose appropriate Godparents for your child. They should be models of the faith, and regular attendees at the*

Eucharist. Though it is encouraged that both Godparents are Catholic, one may be a non-Catholic Christian, and attend as a Christian Witness.

No sacrament gives a faith which did not exist beforehand. They all presuppose that faith which is expressed publicly in the sacrament already exists.

People often ask if the Church might actually refuse the sacrament to anyone. To help you to understand what is actually happening, let's consider a fact; changes have occurred in recent years whereby society, once defined as Christian, has now become pluralistic.

So, what is the difference?

In the "Christian" society, nearly everybody believed in God, everyone was presumed to have a somewhat universal faith understanding. Nowadays, those distinctions no longer exist. People claim to be Christian without practicing their faith or following the guidelines of their faith tradition. Therefore, the sacrament risks being downgraded to the level of meaningless formality.

We would wish never to give any sacrament without first making sure that the people concerned have faith.

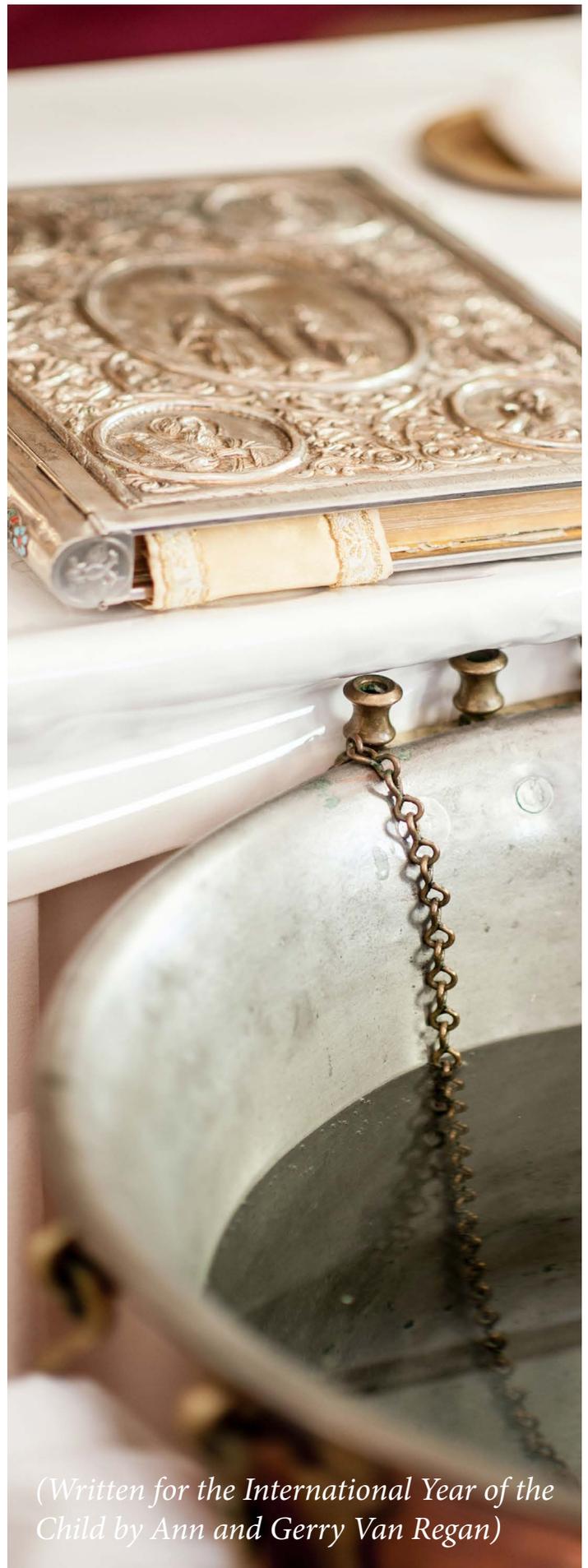
Therefore, though we do not refuse the sacraments, we will take the time to verify whether those who want them are

able to receive them advantageously; and whether or not they are acquainted with the conditions for receiving the sacraments validly.

Once this is all understood by the parties, it will be up to the individuals requesting the sacrament to decide whether or not they accept the conditions. Their refusal to meet the requirements will amount to refusing the sacrament itself and the priest will respect that decision.

It is in this light that we list the Spiritual Rights of The Child below:

1. *The right to know and love God.*
2. *The right to participate in a living community of Faith.*
3. *The right to those needed resources for spiritual growth, such as attendance of Mass.*
4. *The right to religious and moral education from informed parents and teachers.*
5. *The right to hear the Word of God and have it interpreted.*
6. *The right to times of silence and solitude to develop a contemplative spirit.*
7. *The right to active participation in community worship and events.*
8. *The right to live in a house with faith in God as the heart of daily life.*
9. *The right to pray freely.*
10. *The right to be of service to others.*



(Written for the International Year of the Child by Ann and Gerry Van Regan)

Child's Baptism Information

Merciful Redeemer Parish

Today's date:

Envelope Number:

| <i>Child's Information</i> | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Child's name should be as per it appears on the legal birth certificate.</i> | | |
| First Name: | Middle Name: | Last Name: |
| Sex: M/F | Birth Date: | Place of Birth: |
| <i>Parents Information</i> | | |
| Father's Full Name: | | Religion: |
| Mother's First and Maiden Name: | | Religion: |
| Address: | | Postal Code: |
| Email: | | Phone Number: |
| Location of Marriage: | | |
| <i>Godparents Information</i> | | |
| Godfather's Full Name: | | |
| Godmother's Full Name: | | |
| Christian Witness's Full Name (If any - should be a baptized christian): | | |
| <i>For Office Use Only</i> | | |
| Parents' Meeting Date: | | |
| Baptism Date: | Baptized By: | |

Comments:

Having made the decision to bring your child to the Church for the sacrament of Baptism, you are now faced with another important decision; the choice of your child's godparents.

In recent years, in many instances, the role of the godparent has been distorted and the choice of people to fill this role has been made for reasons other than those which ideally should dictate the choice. Only too often, we approach someone to be a godparent to satisfy a social relationship, or to say "thank you" for past favours, or sadly, because they expect it or for quite material benefits which may ensue for the child. At the risk of hurting someone's feelings, we should make our choice of godparent keeping the following in mind.

When inviting someone to be a godparent, the duty implies:

- A request by the parents for the assistance of the Christian community in general and the individual godparents in particular, in raising their child in the Catholic faith.
- An admission by parents of their awareness that they need the community's assistance in raising their child.
- An affirmation of the faith of the individuals invited to be godparents and a challenge to them to witness their faith.
- A statement by the parents that they want their child to be positively influenced by the faith & lives of the people they have invited.

- A reminder to the entire community that it has a shared responsibility to support each of its members.

We suggest the following guidelines in making your choice of people to invite to be god parents:

1. *The person must be mature enough to carry out the responsibilities of a godparent.*
2. *The person must be one of strong living faith (not just a morally upright person), but an ordinary good Catholic person who gives witness of his/her own life to Gospel values in a friendly way.*
3. *The person must be willing to profess his or her faith with the parents immediately prior to the actual pouring of baptismal water and should have no reservations about doing so.*
4. *The person should have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.*
5. *The person must be willing, in whatever way he or she can, actively to cooperate with the parents in helping to bring the child up in the Catholic faith.*

For obvious reasons, only a member of the Catholic Church can be identified as a godparent.