

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish

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Primary Duties of Parents and Godparents

1) *I intend for this child to be a believing and practicing Catholic.* That is, after all, what the Sacrament begins – a life of faith - and without that intention no priest can administer the Sacrament.

2) *I commit myself to coming to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and to see that my child does the same.* Baptism makes a person a member of the Holy Catholic Church, and apart from the Church the ritual has no meaning. Without an active practice of the Faith of our Baptism, the Sacrament itself does nothing useful and won't save us. In fact, it imposes obligations that our absence makes it impossible for us to live up to.

3) *I commit myself to teaching my child the basics of the Faith of Jesus Christ and the ordinary prayers.* Parents are the first teachers of their children and have the primary responsibility for seeing to their instruction in the Faith. If the parents aren't doing that, all the priests, nuns and catechists in the world will not make much of a difference.

4) *I commit myself to showing my child the Catholic life by my own example.* Any parent knows that you can tell a child whatever you want, but if he sees you doing the opposite, your words and "values" will ring hollow, and he will ignore you. You can not expect him to obey the Commandments (such as honoring his parents), if you disobey them yourself.

5) *I commit myself to being an active member of my parish community.* Our faith is not individualistic but lived and nurtured through the community of the Church, particularly the parish and local diocese.

6) *I commit myself to seeing that my child receive his First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation at the appropriate time, according to the norms of the Church.* Baptism is the first of the Sacraments and is meant to open the way to the others, so that the child may grow in grace before God.

7) *I commit myself to enrolling my child in the normal classes of catechism when he reaches the appropriate age.* Our knowledge of the Faith must keep growing, and we have a duty to put our children into religious education courses. Like any educational activity, it is expected that parents and godparents will take an active role in reinforcing the Catholic teaching that the children receive in class.