

# BAPTISM

## *Baptismal Blessing*

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Baptism is only the beginning. It's an incredible beginning, where God sets his affection on us and makes everlasting promises to us, but it's still a *beginning*. As parents, you will become the single most important figures in the LIFEjourney that follows after your child's baptism. That doesn't mean that all the weight rests on you; in addition to your family and your child's Christian sponsors (godparents), there is a whole community here at St. John who is ready to stand with you. Still, your impact can be like no other.

As a part of getting your child baptized at St. John, we want you to create a short blessing (3-5 sentences) that will be spoken either parent at your child's baptism. In this blessing we want you to express your hopes and dreams for your child's LIFEjourney, their relationship with Jesus Christ, and their use for his purposes in the world. Don't be intimidated by this, in the long run it will be a great experience for you and your child. Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ **Start with God.** You may want to start with a sentence about who you have discovered God to be. You may focus on an attribute of God's character that you find especially valuable or there may be a special learning you've had in your own LIFEjourney that will become the basis for your child's blessing.
- ❖ **Focus on the deeper things in life.** Every parent wishes for happiness, success, health, but as Christians our aspirations for our children are *different*. Focus on your hopes for your child's character, their usefulness in God's work, or feel free to express other attitudes you would love to see God form in your child.
- ❖ **Speak from your heart** in every day speech—don't try to make the words sound churchy.

Here's an example:

*God has always been my/our rescuer, throughout my life I have experienced how great his love is. I pray that you, [name], would also know the rescuing love of God, every moment of your life. That you would turn to him in every trouble and trust him for every need. Amen.*

Of course, you still may be feeling overwhelmed, which is why we invite you to the monthly Baptism Orientation at St. John. In the orientation, you will get some practical help on how to craft this blessing to be a powerful testimony for years to come.

**We ask that you share your blessing with us in writing (email is fine: [jlorenz@stjstl.net](mailto:jlorenz@stjstl.net)) no later than one week before the baptism day.** This gives adequate time for us to review it and give any final tips to you to make it as impactful as possible. Speaking words of blessing over your child creates a powerful and personal moment as your child begins his or her spiritual development.