



St. Gertrude Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

303 Franklin Ave., Vandergrift, PA 15690

724-568-2331 Jim Peterman Coordinator

Dear Parents:

Congratulations on the upcoming Baptism of your child. The St. Gertrude Community of Faith welcomes you and your family to this special time of preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, the sacrament of belonging and initiation into the Catholic way of life.

We wish to join you in the responsibility of forming your child in the faith. We offer you the means to deepen your appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism through study, reflection, and sharing. Today's understanding of Baptism emphasizes an enlivened faith, a meaningful celebration of the ceremony, and a nourished sense of our ongoing mission as Catholic Christians. The challenges of such involvement on your part highlight the beauty of this time in your personal family as well as in our parish family.

I hope this packet assists you in the journey to fulfill your role as Christian parents. In order to begin the process of preparation for Baptism, I invite you to:

1. Read carefully the materials provided in this packet.
2. Complete and return the Pre-Baptismal Information Form
3. Attach the completed "The Role of the Godparents" form(s).
4. Attach Godparent Eligibility Form(s) from the Godparents' church

I hope and pray that you will take time to reflect, as individuals and as a couple, on what it means to have your child baptized into a Catholic faith community. We emphasize here at St. Gertrude the importance of the "domestic church" – the church of the home. The family home is the place where your child will first encounter a loving God who lives within each person. It is within the church of the home that your child will be exposed to the Catholic way of life and prepares to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

You may drop off or mail your completed forms at the parish office or place them in the collection basket at Mass. Once I receive your completed Pre-Baptismal Information Form, I will call you to confirm receipt of your paperwork, schedule you for a Baptismal Workshop, discuss Baptism dates, and answer any questions you may have regarding your child's baptism here at the St. Gertrude Faith Community.

Many Blessings,

James Peterman
Coordinator of Faith Formation
and Religious Education