



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

Post Office Box 100 • Albany, Louisiana 70711-0100 • 225.567.3573

01 October 2017

The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dearest Parishioners and Friends:

Baptism, the preeminent Sacrament of Initiation, incorporates us into Christ and forms us into God's people. This Sacrament is crucial as it pardons our sins, rescues us from the power of darkness, and brings us into the dignity of God's chosen ones; we become a new creation through water and the Holy Spirit and are indeed called to be the children of God.

From the earliest of times, the Church has understood that children should never be deprived of baptism because they are baptized in the faith of the Church – a faith proclaimed for them by their parents and godparents who represent both the local Church and the communion of believers. To fulfill the true meaning of the sacrament, children must be later formed in the faith in which they have been baptized. Christian formation seeks to lead them gradually to learn God's plan in Christ so that they may ultimately accept for themselves the faith in which they have been baptized.

Parents especially have a ministry and a responsibility in the baptism of their children. They are moved by their own faith and should prepare to take part in the rite with understanding. To accomplish this and to help parents prepare to become the "first teachers" of their children in the ways of the faith, St. Margaret presents to you these baptism policies for the preparation and celebration of this important event in the life of your child and the life of the local Church. These policies outline some essentials necessary for the celebration; they describe the role of the sponsor; they also present the creation of the new Baptism Preparation Ministry team which will visit families at their home to welcome and prepare them for this communal celebration.

I know that I speak for our entire congregation when I tell you how much we look forward to the celebration of baptisms in our Church! Your witness and reminds us that Christ is alive in these children reborn in baptism. This celebration too is an indication that there is much hope for the Gospel of Christ to spread until it reaches every corner of the world! We look forward to the Christian community welcoming your child with great joy!

Yours in the Lord,

Rev. Jamin Scott David, JCL
Pastor