

Infant Baptism at St. Mary's Parish

Procedure for Parents

1. Parents wishing to have a child baptized in St. Mary's Parish must contact the Parish Liturgy and Music Office at 262-782-4485 to register for baptism.
2. Parents who have not participated in a parish baptism preparation in the past five years are expected to complete preparation prior to scheduling baptism.
3. Parents are encouraged to give careful attention to their choice of godparents. Although it is customary to have two godparents, only one is required. That primary godparent must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic. Additional godparents must be baptized and practicing Christians. Godparents are invited to attend the baptism preparation classes.
4. The parents will be given the schedule for baptism preparation classes and materials to read prior to the class meeting. Parents will be asked to register for a preparation class in advance.
5. Baptism registration will be made through the Parish Liturgy and Music Office. After completing the preparation class, the parents may schedule their child for baptism. At the time of registration the names of godparents should be supplied to the Liturgy and Music Office.
6. Baptisms will be celebrated on two Sundays each month, except during Advent and Lent. Generally, on the first Sunday of each month baptisms will be celebrated at any of the weekend liturgies (5:00 PM Anticipated Liturgy, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM). There will be a maximum of three baptisms celebrated at any liturgy. On the third Sunday of each month baptisms will be celebrated at 12:30 PM.
4. The Parish Liturgy and Music Office will inform the Ministers of Hospitality regarding those Sundays on which baptisms are celebrated during Mass. A pew will be reserved for each family.

Questions for Parents to Consider in Preparation of Baptism

1. Why do I/we want our child baptized? What is our hope for the faith life of our child?
2. What faith and religious practices are important to me/us?
 1. Who should we choose as the godparent(s) for our child? Will this person be a visible presence and an active role model of the faith for our child?

Points for Parents to Consider on the Day of Baptism

For all baptisms:

1. Review the baptism ritual. Know your responses.
2. If you are supplying a white garment, or if your child's baptismal gown is the white garment, be sure to inform the Presider. Otherwise he will bless and present a white garment from the parish.
3. Loosen the child's garments so that the chest may be anointed. Remove any hat or bonnet.
4. Baptism is a ritual of faith and community. Photography is acceptable during the baptism as long as it does not distract from the celebration or impede the ability of the congregation to participate. Flash photography is not appropriate.
5. Be sure to take your child's baptismal candle and white garment with you.

Baptism during Mass:

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the liturgy. A pew will be reserved for your family.
2. Baptism families are invited to assist with the offering of the gifts. If you would like to bring up the gifts, tell one of the Ministers of Hospitality prior to Mass.
3. One member of your family should go to the sacristy to meet with the presiding priest. Any final instructions will be given at this time.
4. Be prepared to join in the procession into church with the Presider. (This means leaving coats, diaper bags, and other supplies in the pew and being ready in the front entrance 5 minutes before the scheduled beginning of Mass). The number of baptisms will determine whether or not godparents and other family members will be part of the procession.
5. After the Presider kisses the Altar, come up the steps into the sanctuary, turn and face the assembly. The Presider will ask you what you want from God's church. Your response is a loud, clear: "Baptism" or "Eternal life".
6. The baptism celebration occurs after the homily. Father will ask you to move to the baptismal font at that time. Stand in a circle behind the font so that the congregation can see the baptism.