

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded of you" (Matthew 28:19-20)

Baptism is the first sacrament celebrated in the process of becoming a full member of the Church community. It is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Baptism is, like all sacraments, a gift from God. Water is the universal symbol. Water is absolutely essential for all life. Water cleanses and restores. It is the waters of Baptism which give us new life. In accordance, though Baptism we also die to our old sinful selves in order to be restored and resurrected in the new life of Christ.

"The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ." --Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1279

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Registered parishioners are invited to have their children baptized at the church of their choice. The celebration of the sacrament alternates every other month at either Blessed Sacrament or Saint Margaret's church. Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year on the third Sunday at 1:00PM in a group setting outside of Mass. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration for a private baptism to be held.

In preparing for your child's Baptism:

- Parents must be registered parishioners at either Blessed Sacrament or Saint Margaret's Parish.
- Parents and godparents are required to attend one of our Baptism Classes, offered on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00PM. If the godparent(s) live out of town, he or she may attend a class at one's local parish and send us a letter of good standing to that effect.

Before a baptism date can be set, a Baptism Packet must be received by the family of the child to be baptized and completed paperwork returned to the church of baptism. Please call either church for a packet, or download and print the documents located at Parish Forms and mail them or drop them off at either rectory.

## CHOOSING GODPARENTS:

- There are two godparents only, who should be chosen based on one's ability to help you raise your child in the belief and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Godparents are active, registered parishioners of their parish, they each must be at least sixteen years old, one must be Catholic, and both must be baptized Christians. The Catholic godparent must have received the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Parents may not be godparents for their own children.

## CHECKLIST:

- Have you sent in the Baptismal Questionnaire?
- Have you attended the Baptism Class?
- Have you received a confirmation of the date, time and location?
- Have the godparents attended Baptism class?
- Have you sent in letters of good standing for the godparents from out-of-town?

For adults age 18 and up seeking baptism:

Please see the [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults \(RCIA\)](#) program.