

Sacrament of Baptism

Next Class date: _____

Why Baptism: What happens to your child in the sacrament?

Baptism welcomes us into the Church and forms us into God's people. It is the sacrament through which a person accepts Christ's call to salvation and the Kingdom of God as a member of the Catholic Church. It is the beginning of your child's life in Jesus. Through the grace of the sacrament, your child will take on the attitude of Jesus. This is what our Catholic identity is all about. Your child will become a Christian, another Christ living in the world and be welcomed as a part of our St. Gregory Parish family with whom the journey to the Father begins.

What religious values do you hope to pass on to your child? Are you ready to make this commitment to your child?

Before Baptism: What Parents need to know and do before Baptism.

- Parents of the child to be baptized must be ready to model our Christian faith and form their child in the ways of Christ.
- Call the **Ministry Office at #473-6261 ext. 153** for an appointment to register for the Baptism.
- **All parents and godparents (godparent is another title for sponsor) must attend the baptismal preparation class prior to the Baptism. This class is held from 9:00am to 11:30am on the first Saturday of each month (except July) in the Garden Room.**
- Once you have completed the Baptismal Preparation Class, you may choose any Sunday you wish for your child's Baptism. Call the Ministry Office at the above number to schedule the Baptism date.
- If you are unable to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class for which you are registered, please contact the same number to reschedule.
- Baptisms are held each Sunday at 3:00pm. in the Church. The last Sunday of each month is reserved for Baptisms in Spanish only and will be held at 4:30pm. Please gather in the Church by 2:45pm (or 4:15pm for Spanish Sunday's) so that the service may begin on time. The ceremony generally lasts about an hour.

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Your Role as a Parent: Why do want your child baptized?

Parents are the primary Christian Role Models for their children. To learn the name of God, your child must first hear it from your lips and the lips of others – just as you did. To “know” God, your child needs to be able to feel divine love in the warmth of your arms and in the mutual care lived in the circle of family and Church.

Do you “know” who your parish family is? Does your parish family “know” who you are?

- Worshiping each Sunday together as a family teaches children that God comes first in their lives and that their parish family is also there to support them when in need.
- Worshiping and praying regularly gives your child a solid foundation on which he/she can develop a strong relationship with God. Teaching your child to pray can be the greatest gift you give your child which can be a guide throughout their lives. Let your child experience saying grace before meals as a family and pray the Our Father and Hail Mary each night. Your child will learn these prayers only if you pray with them.
- Being a part of St. Gregory's Parish Family can instill a sense of service in your child through your active participation in parish groups and programs.

Who can be a Godparent?

Godparents are, along with you, your child's guide on the Christian life journey. They will help shape your little one's faith by sharing their own in word and deed.

What kind of person do you most hope your child will be? How can these Godparents be a role model to the faith for your child?

- Godparents should be committed Catholics who will provide a good example to your child as he/she matures in the faith. Godparents must be over 16 years of age, fully initiated (have received Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) and be **practicing Catholics**. If the Godparent **is not** a registered member of St. Gregory Church, he/she must present a **Certificate of Sponsor eligibility from the parish in which he/she is registered**. A child may have: a) One male Godparent, or b) One female Godparent, or c) One male and one female Godparent.
- If the Godparents live out-of-town, they must attend a **Baptismal Preparation Class** at their home parish prior to the Baptism. The **Certificates of Class attendance & Sponsor eligibility** must be submitted to the Church or Ministry Office **at least seven (7) days before the scheduled baptism**.
- In addition to a Godparent, parents may choose a Christian Witness on behalf of their child. A Christian Witness is a baptized adult who will witness the Baptism and provide a good example to the child.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

The Baptism Service

In the sacraments we encounter Christ. When words are inadequate we speak in gestures and signs. The language of ritual enables people to share events words cannot express. Baptism speaks with water, light, oil, and a white garment.

Water	- symbolizes new life on earth in Christ
Sign of the Cross	- the mark of Christians for Jesus Christ died on the cross. Making the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead signifies that the baby belongs to Christ and receives special graces from Christ to overcome the sufferings of life.
Oil (Chrism)	- a scented oil blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday. In Baptism we are anointed as a sign of the sharing in the ministry of Jesus.
White Garment	- sign of innocence and the new life of resurrection
Baptismal Candle	- This symbolizes Christ – the Light of the World.

- It is recommended that your child be dressed in white for the Baptism. Keep in mind that the priest must anoint the child's chest during the celebration of the sacrament. Therefore, choose a garment that can be loosened around the neck.
- It is a custom here at St. Gregory's Church to present your child with his/her individual Baptismal Candle and White Bib (White Garment) that will be used during the Service.

Thank you for building a community of faith in our Parish of Saint Gregory..

Life in Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift.
To bring your child for Baptism is to share that gift
and to help your child to join with you in unwrapping God's love for us.