

Baptism Preparation Course

Godparent Requirements:

Godparent – Must be a confirmed Catholic at least 16 years of age in good standing.

Good Standing:

- a. Registered parishioner (does not need to be at SPB).
 - b. Has received the three sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist.
 - c. (If married) Marriage is recognized as valid by the Roman Catholic Church.
 - d. Regularly participates in the Sunday Mass and gives witness to faith in Jesus, by receiving Christ in Holy Communion.
 - e. Actively strives to live out the commitment to Christ and the community life of the Church by loving response to others.
3. Only one sponsor is required.
 4. A male and a female are required only when two sponsors are chosen.
 5. The sponsor may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
 6. A sponsor certificate (letter) from the godparents' home parish must be obtained.
 7. Donation (Stipend) to the priest – Any amount you feel appropriate.
 8. Arrive at baptism 20 minutes early if during the Mass and find the priest.
 9. Will be in front of the congregation: “Sunday Best” dress attire, no gum chewing, Etc.
 10. Church will provide the baptismal candle. Parents need to provide the child's white garment.

If you have any questions, please contact

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Three Reasons Why We Get Baptized

1. Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)

The Baptism of Jesus

13ⁱ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.**14** John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?”**15** Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.**16*** After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him.**17** And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son,* with whom I am well pleased.”

- Jesus did not need to be baptized; however, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings to reconcile us to the Father.
- Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize all the nations. This established the means by which people would die to sin (original and actual) and begin to live a new life with Christ.

2. Original Sin (Genesis: 3:1-13)

Expulsion from Eden.

1 Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”**2** The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;**3** it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”**4** But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! **5** God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know* good and evil.”**6** The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.**7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

8When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?10He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”11Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?12The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”13The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

- When God came to confront Adam and Eve, they ran and hid and did not take responsibility for their actions. We continue to do the same thing today when facing our sins. Consider going to Confession before your child is baptized.
- Baptism washes away original sin.
- It’s hard to believe innocent babies could have any sin on them, but we are all a part of the human family.
- All human beings have the potential to sin. Also, the world is full of sin. The society in which we live is plagued with sin: on TV, radio, etc.
- Getting your baby baptized is getting them out of the sin of the world. You are saying you want a fresh start for your child.

3. Become a part of the community of the church

- Attend Mass every Sunday and actively participate in the Mass.
- Get involved in a parish program or ministry. SPB has over 60 different programs and ministries to join.
- Get to know the priests, staff, and members of the community.
- Every family needs a strong support system to raise a child as a Catholic Christian.

Symbols of Baptism

1. Cross – In baptism, we die and rise with Christ. The cross is made on the forehead at the beginning of the ceremony. Baptism is the Sacrament of Salvation.

2. Oils – Oils were traditionally used as medicine and for royalty. Two oils are used to anoint the person being baptized. Oil of the Catechumens (person being baptized) and Holy chrism (used during confirmation) – This is to symbolize the journey to become confirmed and remaining forever as a member of Christ.
3. White Garment – Symbolizes purity. Historically, people who were baptized wore a white garment in public to show they were pure and lived as Christ did.
4. Candle – Symbolizes the light of Christ being received and to be the light of Christ in the world.
5. Godparents – Represent the community and the communal aspect of the church, and being a Christian. The godparents represent the support and care the community, Church, and family have for each other.
6. Water – Wash away sins. To purify and make one holy.

Ceremony Overview

1. A Word of Welcome (right as Mass is starting)
 - a. Either near the narthex of the church or up on the altar (depending on which priest is presiding), the parents and godparents will stand with the baby and the priest.
 - b. The priest will ask what name you wish to give to your child. **Say the child's first and middle name.**
 - c. The priest will then ask why you have come to the church today. **Say baptism.**
 - d. The priest will then make the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead. He will ask the parents and godparents to do the same.
 - e. You may process in or take your seats in the front pews reserved for you and your family. Mass will go on as usual.
2. Listening to God's Word

- a. 2 readings, the Gospel, then the homily and intercessions. Then the baptism takes place.
 - b. At this time, the priest will take you and your family over to the baptismal font. **Everyone in your family is invited to the font to take pictures, etc.**
3. Prayer of Exorcism
 - a. The priest asks God to protect the child from all evil.
 4. Anointing
 - a. With the Oil of the Catechumen, the priest will anoint the child and pray that God will strengthen the child in life's struggles that lie ahead.
 5. Blessing of the Baptism Water
 6. Profession of Faith
 - a. At this time, the parents, godparents, and the entire church community will renew their baptismal vows. **Respond, "I do."**
 7. The Baptism
 - a. The priest will pour water over the child's forehead and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The community will welcome the child by applauding and/or singing.
 8. Concluding Ceremonies
 - a. The priest may ask the parents and godmother to join him on the altar.
 - b. The priest will anoint the child with the Chrism Oil to symbolize their journey through the sacraments (Confirmation). He may again make crosses on the baby (on the eyes, lips, and heart).

c. The godfather may need to climb a step ladder to light the baptismal candle from the Paschal candle. He will bring it to the child on the altar.

9. Mass Proceeds as Normal

a. The godparents may be asked to bring up the gifts.

b. There will be a blessing at the end of Mass for the mother and father.

c. The priest may stay after mass for pictures.

Discussion

What has been the journey of your faith? How do you want your child's faith journey to be similar or different?

Watch the following video (copy/paste into browser):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JRClg-Ltw>

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Fill us with Your blessings; Fill us with Your Spirit.

Inspire us to share Your love with our children.

May our children be our joy here on earth.

Lord, grant that our families may enjoy continuous health in mind, body, and spirit.

May we give You thanks because You have given us the great gift of parenthood.

Amen.