

St. Mary Catholic Parish

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Sacrament of Baptism



Information

Welcome

“Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift” CCC:1216

Congratulations on your precious gift of God! It is truly wonderful that you wish to share your faith with your child, for Jesus said: “Let the children come to me.” This gift of faith is one of the most important gifts that you can give to your child.

It has been the constant practice of the Roman Catholic Church from the earliest times to administer the sacrament of Baptism to infants. Parents very naturally want to pass along their own faith to their child and their values that flow from that faith. Baptism marks the beginning of this faith life.

At Baptism, the parents and sponsors along with the whole Christian community take upon themselves the responsibility to make the Church and the world a place that will offer the newly baptized the love and support needed to grow to full Christian adulthood.

We look forward to helping you prepare for the Baptism of your child.

Steps to Prepare

We ask that you begin Baptism preparation prior to the birth of your child, if possible. All Godparents are welcome and encouraged to attend the preparation, if they are in the local area.

1. Parents are asked to be or to become active parishioners in advance of the baptism.
2. Contact the parish secretary at 630-552-3448 or lsanchez@saintmaryplano.com to sign up to attend a Baptismal Preparation Course.
3. Within the next few weeks, start gathering the necessary documentation needed for your child and Godparents. A list can be found on the back of this booklet.

All completed documentation will be turned in to the Parish Office. Upon completion of the Baptismal Preparation Course the date for your child’s baptism will be set.

Please do not make flight plans for Godparents of family prior to having all paperwork complete.

Celebration of the Sacrament

The Sacrament of Baptism for Infants and Children, who have not reached the age of (7) seven, is celebrated on:

The 3rd Sunday of the month

All documentation must be complete and Baptismal Preparation Course complete before the Parish Office can schedule a date for the Baptism.

Baptismal Preparation

Baptismal Preparation is presented both in English and Spanish. Both parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Course before we can baptize their child. Instruction is valid for 2 years. After 2 years parents must attend the class again.

Godparents



Godparents should be prayerfully selected who visibly practice their Catholic Faith, and attend Church on a regular basis, and give strong Christian witness, be at least 16 years old, and have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and if married, they must be married in the Catholic Church or have their marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon. They cannot be the parents of the child.

One Catholic Godparent is all that is required, but if you chose, two, one must be male and the other female. Or, a baptized person who actively practicing their Christian faith may be a sponsor in the role of "*Christian Witness*," but only in company with a practicing Catholic.

Clothing and Candle



A white Christening gown is customary but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's breast. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for the baptism. Please supply your own white Baptismal bib and a decorated candle. Keep these as a reminder of this joyous milestone. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future.

Documentation



The Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of the parish from the information you provide. Therefore, please be sure of the accuracy of information and the spelling of names.

- Baptismal Registration form - fully complete all information before handing in.
- Sponsor Form / Letter - one for each Godparent, from the parish where they are registered, stating that they are qualified to be a Godparent, with Pastor signature and Parish seal on form / Letter.
- Official Birth Certificate - please provide a copy for your child's baptism file.
- Copy of Adoption Papers - if your child has been adopted, Baptism may not take place until their adoption has become final.

Family Donation



There is no fee for the Baptism ceremony. However, families are reminded that they should make a donation to the Church on the occasion of their child's Baptism and give a stipend (small gift) to the priest or deacon. Donation suggested \$50. This may be placed in an envelope and given to the Parish Office upon scheduling the date for the Baptism. Please be sure to indicate that the donation is for the occasion of your child's (name) baptism.