

# St. Joseph's Parish

**& St. Vincent de Paul Mission**

9961 Elk Grove-Florin Road • Elk Grove, California 95624 • 916 685-3681

## Sacrament of Baptism

Thank you for asking about the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, the most precious gift God may give you.... In baptizing your children, you are accepting the responsibility to teach them how they ought to live in this kingdom here on earth, so they may embrace the Kingdom that is to come. This is so important. As God's People, the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church teaches each of us should be the sacrament of Our Lord in the life we live. This is why we have a relationship with one another, celebrating our faith all the days of our lives.

Enclosed is an information booklet about Baptism. In it, many aspects of the sacrament are outlined for your consideration and reflection, all offered to help you pray about these questions: are you practicing your own faith; what is your relationship with our parish; are you committed to not only being the first "teachers" of the faith, but faith's best example; are you committed to bringing your children up in the practice of the faith so they may have the experience of Christ's Presence, and thus be able to choose if they will live as a Catholic Christian or not; are you willing to support your brothers and sisters (your fellow parishioners) by your own gifts of time, talent and treasure, so our parish may be all that it may be; etc., etc.

To help you appreciate the importance of these reflection questions, we have a formal baptismal preparation session held monthly, to which we expect our parents to come, and to which the sponsors (godparents) are also invited. A form is provided with the dates and times of the next two sessions.

Please consider the questions above; review the brochure and the baptism registration form; and consider a donation to your parish. Then, *please*, mail back the baptismal registration form, or put it in the offertory collection during Mass, indicating the preparation session you plan to attend. At the preparation session, you will have an opportunity to schedule your baptism and give your donation; as well, you may always schedule an appointment with a priest to discuss your faith practice, or any other questions you may have.

In the hope and prayer each and everyone of us will be the best disciples of the Lord, please know our parish is here to serve you in anyway we may. We need you!

Respectfully yours, in His Name and service,



Fr. Peter J. Bosque  
*Pastor*

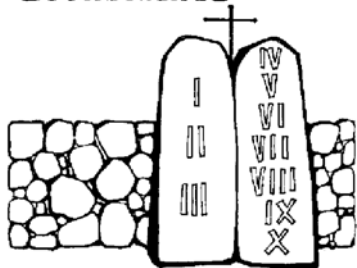
# St. Joseph Parish

## *Baptismal Preparation Sessions*

(7pm, in our *Renwald Room*, the room next to the Church -- designed to last about 90 minutes)

Our parish community extends a warm and loving welcome as you prepare for the celebration of *Sacrament of Baptism*. We welcome you, your family, and most especially your child, as we walk the journey of faith together.

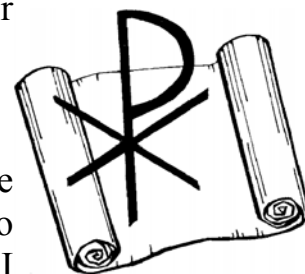
Follow God's  
commands



Our Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of the faith, and critical to the mission of sharing the saving love and faith in the Lord. This is why the parents must be believers ready and willing to help their own children, and all Christians, in the practice of the faith --- as the grace of Baptism unfolds in our lives. The parish preparation sessions, held monthly, are offered to help our parents to understand their mission to carry Christ into the world:

As the Gospel says:

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through me...” and “Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the works that I do...” (Gospel of John)

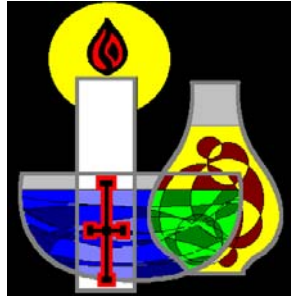


Our Baptism preparation process is offered to deepen your faith to be ever more faithful to these gospel words in and through the Catholic faith celebrated in all our Sacraments.

Please come prepared by reviewing the Baptismal booklet, and pray about your faith commitment, what are the practical ways of living our Catholic faith.



## CHECKLIST for BAPTISM



\_\_\_\_\_ Consider the importance of *Baptism*, and what is expected of you as parents, and those you have chosen to be sponsors of the Catholic faith (godparents): understanding our celebration is a public statement of what you believe, that you are committed to serve the Lord and others, and that you live a lifestyle reflecting what we believe as Catholics and what we will pray.

\_\_\_\_\_ After making a commitment to living the faith as the Catholic Church teaches, read over all of the information mailed to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete the *Baptism Registration Form*, selecting the baptismal preparation session in which you intend to participate (at the bottom of the form).

\_\_\_\_\_ Ensure the form is returned by mail to the Parish Office or placed in the offertory at Mass.

\_\_\_\_\_ Participate in the baptismal preparation session, and after the session, call the parish to schedule a baptism; as well, please consider a stewardship donation to your parish which makes the work of the Church possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you choose not to schedule a baptism date after the preparation session) then please call at your convenience to schedule the baptism (ph. 916-685-3681).

\_\_\_\_\_ Participate in the *Sacrament of Baptism*, and then live in the Name of the Lord, along with your brothers and sisters!

May your child always....

*experience the comfort of the Father's love,  
faith in His Son,  
and the wisdom of the Spirit.....*