

# ***St. Joseph Parish***

***& St. Vincent de Paul Mission***

9961 Elk Grove Florin Road • Elk Grove, California 95624-2560 • (916) 685-3681 • STJOSEPH-ELKGROVE.NET

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

Thank you for asking about the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, the most precious gift God gives you.... In baptizing your child, you are accepting the responsibility to teach your son or daughter how 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 that each of us should be the "sacrament" of Our Lord, as expressed in how we live our lives. This is why we need to have a relationship with one another, your family and the Church.

You will find enclosed an information booklet about Baptism. In it, many aspects of the sacrament are offered for your consideration and reflection, all so you might think about these questions:

- are you practicing the Catholic faith;
- what is your relationship with our parish;
- are you committed to not only being the first "teachers" of the faith, but also faith's best example;
- are you committed to bringing your children up in the practice of the faith so they may experience Christ's presence in their lives, so they will be able to choose if they will live as Catholic Christians or not;
- are you willing to support your brothers and sisters (your fellow parishioners) by your own gifts of time, talent and treasure (your donations of money and who you are), so our parish may be all that it should be?

To help you appreciate the importance of these reflection questions, we have a formal baptismal preparation session, to which we expect our parents and sponsors (godparents) to attend. You will be called and invited to participate in a preparation session offered here at St. Joseph Parish.

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 bring it in to the office. Someone from the parish (the parish sister, priest, or parish support staff) will be contacting you. After the preparation session, you will have an opportunity to schedule your baptism. Also, at any time, you may schedule an appointment with a priest or parish sister to discuss how your faith practice, or any other questions you may have.

In the hope and prayer each and every one 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. Rodolfo D. Llamas**  
*Pastor*

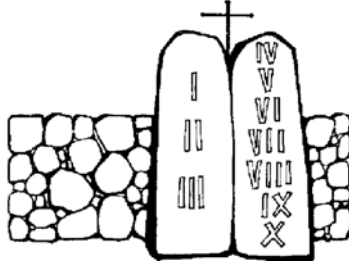
# St. Joseph Parish

## *Baptismal Preparation Sessions*

(Held once a month, usually at 7 pm, lasting about an hour and a half)

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.

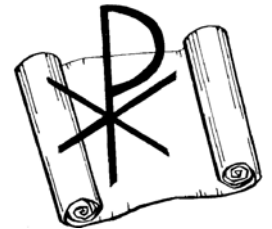
Follow God's  
commands



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)

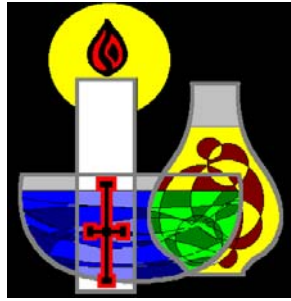


Our Baptism preparation process is offered to deepen your faith to be ever more faithful to these gospel words in and through the Catholic faith celebrated in all our Sacraments.

When you are invited to the evening preparation meeting, please come prepared by reviewing the Baptismal booklet, pray about your own faith commitment, and reflect on how you live 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). Appreciate how our celebration is a public expression of what you believe, and that you are committed to serve the Lord and others, living a lifestyle which reflects what we believe as Catholics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When you have considered, and made a commitment to live the faith as the Catholic Church teaches, please read over all of the information mailed or handed to you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the *Baptism Registration Form*, as neatly as you can so that the information reflects the child's birth certificate and return the form to the Parish Office.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Depending on your family circumstances, meet with a parish sister or priest about your practice of the faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in the baptismal preparation session.
- \_\_\_\_\_ After the session, schedule a baptism by coming into the Parish Office. At this time, please consider a stewardship donation to your church (*a suggestion of \$50*), knowing your donation supports the work of our parish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.....*

# Code of Canon Law

(which govern the Catholic Church and Her Administration of the Sacraments) *selected codes*

Can. 774 §2 Before all others, parents are bound to form their children, **by word and example, in faith and in Christian living**. The same obligation binds sponsors (godparents) and those who take the place of parents. (*Emphasis added*)

## CHAPTER I THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Can. 851 The celebration of baptism should be properly prepared. Accordingly:

- 2° the parents of a child who is to be baptized, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsors, are to be instructed on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attaching to it. The parish priest is to see to it that either he or others duly prepare the parents, by means of pastoral advice and indeed by prayer together; a number of families might be brought together for this purpose and, where possible, each family visited.

Can. 855 Parents, sponsors and parish priests are to take care that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.

## CHAPTER III THE PERSONS TO BE BAPTISED

Can. 867 §1 Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it.

Can. 868 §1 For an infant to be baptised lawfully it is required:

- 1° that the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent;
- 2° that **there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion**. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. (*Emphasis added*.)

## CHAPTER IV SPONSORS

Can. 872 In so far as possible, a person being baptised is to be assigned a sponsor. ...

In the case of an infant baptism, the role is together with the parents to present the child for baptism, and to help the child to live a Christian life befitting the baptised and faithfully to fulfil the duties inherent in baptism.

Can. 873 One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex.

Can. 874 §1 To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:

- 1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
- 2° be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
- 3° be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and **who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken** (*emphasis added*);
- 4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
- 5° not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptised.

Can 874 §2 A baptised person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.

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## REGISTRATION for BAPTISM

Full name of the child: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City & Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth (City/State): \_\_\_\_\_

Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_ His Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_ Her Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you Married in the Catholic Church? --  yes  no

Where did you marry?: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the priest or minister?: \_\_\_\_\_

If you did not, why did you not marry in the Catholic Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registered in the parish?:  yes  no. If yes, approximately how long ? \_\_\_\_\_

*How often do you worship with us; why do you want to baptize your child in our parish; in what other ways do you practice the faith.:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Godparent** (the sponsor who is a practicing Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** (Street, City & Zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

**Godparent** (sponsor, or witness if not a practicing Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** (Street, City & Zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Any questions you might have:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please bring completed form to the office)**

### Office Use:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Prep Session Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Baptism Celebrated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ by whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded in Baptismal Register Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Line# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Certificate. sent or given on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_