



St. John Fisher Church

5448 Crest Road

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5097

310-377-5571

Web site: www.sjf.org

Infant Baptism

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Catholic Church, a welcoming of your child into the Christian family. From the baptismal font is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes: “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:13) Through Baptism we receive the grace of God and become sharers in the Church’s mission. It is the first of three sacraments of initiation and is the basis of the whole Christian life.

This information sheet deals **ONLY** with the baptism of **children under six years of age**. Because they are capable of learning about their faith, older children who have already had their sixth birthday or begun first grade must take **religious instruction** before being baptized. Please call the Religious Education Office (310-377-4573) for information about these special classes.

The Baptism of your infant child is an expression of your desire to share your faith with your child. Faith is a gift from God, a gift that needs to be nourished. We do this through prayer, Scripture reading, attendance at Mass on Sundays, reception of the Eucharist, and being of service to other people. In the sacrament of Baptism your child is being initiated into the Catholic Church because you, as parents, are promising God and the Church to raise your child in the practice of the Catholic faith. You are taking on a great responsibility of being the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. May your example of day-to-day living of the Catholic faith make you the very best of teachers.

Here at St. John Fisher baptism takes place during Mass on Sunday, the day in which the Church celebrates the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is conferred in a communal celebration in the presence of the faithful, relatives, and friends, who are all to take an active part in this action and reflects both the mystery of being incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and the death/resurrection effect of this ritual.

Procedures to Prepare Your Child for Infant Baptism

It involves four steps:

- I. A prayerful reflection over the choice of godparents.
- II. Registration and interview
- III. Participation of parents in a prebaptismal class
- IV. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Please see the next page to read these four steps in more detail.

I. Godparents

The selection of the child's godparents is an important decision and should be made with the child's growth in faith in mind. You may choose **one** Godfather and/or **one** Godmother. Godparents accept the responsibility, along with you, of providing for the faith formation of your child in the Catholic Church. Their beliefs and lifestyle should reflect the responsibility they are accepting. Consequently, the Church **requires** the following of the Godfather and Godmother:

1. They are **practicing Catholics**, i.e., they attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly.
2. They are at least **sixteen years of age**.
3. They have received the sacrament of **Confirmation**.
4. If married, they are **married in the Catholic Church**.
5. After considering these qualities, the parents should select the godparents for their child. A non-Catholic Christian may take the place of **one** of the godparents and stand as a Christian witness along with the Catholic godparent. Godparents can provide a recommendation from their pastor by using the form available on the web site. **Godparents who are parishioners at St. John Fisher need to have a godparent interview with the pastor. Godparents may call the Parish Office to schedule this 15 minute appointment.**

II. Registration and Interview

1. Call the parish office (310-377-5571) for an appointment with one of the priests. **BOTH PARENTS** must be present for the interview.
2. Fill out the registration form completely before the interview and present it to the priest.
3. If you live in this parish and are not registered, please come 15 minutes early before your scheduled appointment with the priest to fill out a parish registration form for your family.
4. The priest will interview the parents and schedule them for the prebaptismal class. Before the first class, Misty Jesse, Director of Evangelization, will contact you to confirm your class registration and review the godparents' permission form.

III. Prebaptismal Class

Both parents must attend the prebaptismal class. The purpose of this class is to gain a fuller appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith. This class takes place on a Monday evening. An interview with one of the parish priests is required **prior** to attending this class.

IV. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Upon completion of the prebaptismal class and receipt of the godparents' forms, a date for the celebration will be confirmed. Baptisms ordinarily take place on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 12:30 PM Mass. However, if you have a priest from outside the parish that you wish to perform the sacrament, he is most welcome. Please inform the interviewing priest at the time of registration when you wish to have your child baptized. It can be tentatively schedule at that time and confirmed after the class is completed. If the priest is from outside the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, he needs a letter from his bishop concerning his suitability for ministry.



Baptism Registration

PARENTS: Please fill all information below prior to your interview with the priest. Write the names exactly as you wish them to appear on the baptismal certificate. Circle your choice where indicated. Once the form is filled out, both parents are to sign their names on the reverse side.

Name of Child: _____
Please print: Last First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ City and state of birth: _____

Was child adopted? Yes No Was child previously baptized? Yes No

Parents' address: _____
Street Apt # City Zip Code

Phone: () _____ () _____
Home Work or cell? Mother or Father?

Father: _____ Religion: _____
Last First E-mail address: _____

If baptized Catholic – First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No
Do you attend Mass: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?
Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?
Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No Somewhat

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No
If yes, when? _____ where? _____

Mother _____ Religion: _____
Last First

Maiden Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

If baptized Catholic – First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No
Do you attend Mass: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?
Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?
Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No
If yes, when? _____ where? _____

Marital status of parents: Married Single Divorced

If married, please circle whether:

Married in the Catholic Church Married in other church or chapel Married by Court

Are you registered in St. John Fisher Parish? Yes No ID Number _____

Would you like to be registered? Yes No

Godfather _____ Over 16 yrs. of age? Yes No
 Baptized Catholic? Yes No Attends Mass weekly? Yes No Confirmed? Yes No
 Is he married? Yes No If married, was marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest? Yes No
 Does he receive communion regularly? Yes No Is he a member of this parish? Yes No
 If not, to what parish does he belong? * _____

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? _____
 Will any proxy be used? Yes No

Godmother _____ Over 16 yrs. of age? Yes No
 Baptized Catholic? Yes No Attends Mass weekly? Yes No Confirmed? Yes No
 Is she married? Yes No If married, was marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest? Yes No
 Does she receive communion regularly? Yes No Is he a member of this parish? Yes No
 If not, to what parish does she belong? * _____

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? _____
 Will any proxy be used? Yes No

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

We are aware that we must demonstrate an active commitment in the practice of our faith before our child will be baptized at Saint John Fisher Church.

Signature of Father _____ *Signature of Mother* _____ *Date* _____
 Parents, please do not write below this line.



For Office Use Only

Signature of Priest Interviewing _____ *Date of Class* _____

Pre-baptismal Class Attendance

	Class Date	Initials
Father		
Mother		

Letter from Pastor of Godfather received _____ by _____
Date _____ *Initials* _____

Letter from Pastor of Godmother received _____ by _____
Date _____ *Initials* _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Minister of Baptism: _____

*See the Godparent Form for Infant Baptism



St. John Fisher Church

Godparent Form for Infant Baptism

Child's Name: _____
First Last

Prospective Godparents: *After you fill out this form completely, please take it to your parish office where the bottom can be completed and the parish seal imprinted.*

Godparent,

Before signing, please read the following church requirements for godparents. In accordance with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church, Canons 872, 874, 892, 893, to be a godparent, a person must:

- Be a practicing Catholic (i.e. attends Mass and receives Holy Communion regularly), selected by the candidates family and with the intention of fulfilling this role
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- If married, be married in the Catholic Church
- Be neither the father nor the mother of the person to be baptized.

If you are a St. John Fisher Parishioner, please complete this form and make an appointment for a godparent interview by calling the Parish Office. The bottom part will be completed at that time.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

I declare that I am a member of the parish stated below and I fulfill the requirements of canon law to be a godparent.

Prospective godparent's signature

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE GODPARENT'S PARISH

I certify that _____ is a member of this parish, is a practicing Catholic, and, therefore, I recommend him/her as a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor of prospective godparent's parish

Date: _____

Parish: _____

City/State: _____

(Church Seal)