



St. John Fisher Church

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310-377-5571
www.sjf.org

Infant Baptism for St. John Fisher Parishioners

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 less than 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.

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 one of the priests here. Godparents may call the Parish Office to schedule this 15-minute appointment.**

II. Registration and Interview

1. Fill out the registration form completely and return it to the parish office, either personally, by mail, or electronically (receptionist@sjf.org) prior to making the appointment.
2. When you call the parish office (310-377-5571) for an appointment with one of the priests, the receptionists should have already received your form.
3. BOTH PARENTS must be present for the interview.
4. The priest will interview the parents and schedule them for the prebaptismal class. Before the first class, the parish office will contact them to confirm their class registration and review the godparents' permission form.

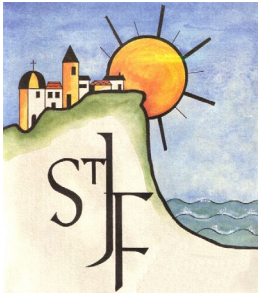
III. Prebaptismal Class

Both parents must attend the prebaptismal class. The purpose of this class is to deepen their understanding of the sacrament of Baptism and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith. The pre-baptism class is offered online the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents who have completed their form and have had their interview with a parish priest.

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 at 1:00 p.m. However, if you have a priest from outside the parish that you wish to perform the sacrament, he is most welcome. If the priest is from outside the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, he needs a letter from his bishop concerning his suitability for ministry.

8/2021



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



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 candidate's 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 as a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Pastor of prospective godparent's parish Date: _____

Parish: _____

City/State: _____

(Church Seal)