

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This sacrament is called *Baptism*, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek *baptizein*) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."

This sacrament is also called "*the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit*," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God."

"This bath is called *enlightenment*, because those who receive this [catechetical] instruction are enlightened in their understanding" Having received in Baptism the Word, "the true light that enlightens every man," the person baptized has been "enlightened," he becomes a "son of light," indeed, he becomes "light" himself:

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift....We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called *gift* because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; *grace* since it is given even to the guilty; *Baptism* because sin is buried in the water; *anointing* for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; *enlightenment* because it radiates light; *clothing* since it veils our shame; *bath* because it washes; and *seal* as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship.



Catholic Church Catechism
numbers 1214-1216

INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE _____

CLASS DATE _____

NAME(S) _____

Parents

Godparents

NAME OF THE CHILD _____

WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE (Total: 3 weeks)

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The class and Masses are valid for ONE year from the date you attended.
This card is only valid for St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. If you are planning to baptize on a different church please ask the parish office staff for a permission letter.

St. John the Baptist
Catholic Church
Napa, CA.



The Sacrament of
Baptism

GUIDELINES FOR BAPTIZING YOUR CHILD AT ST. JOHN'S PARISH



We welcome all seeking to baptize their child in our parish. We are here to help and encourage you to continue bringing up your child in the Catholic faith.

Parents and godparents are the principal educators of the child to be baptized. A pre-baptism class is offered and required for both parents and godparents, prior to the child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. **The class takes place in the rectory second floor on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.** (There are exceptions due to holidays. Notice is given in the bulletin.) All information will be given at the class. The class is approximately one hour long.



Schedule of Baptism class dates for 2018: (please confirm with church office prior to attending)

2018

January 22	February 26
March 26	April 23
May 28	June 25
July 23	August 27
September 24	October 22
November 26	

NOTE:
If your child is 5 years or older, please see the priest.

DOCUMENTS

1. If one or both of the godparents are married and living as a couple, they are required to be married by the Catholic Church.
2. Candidates for godparents must be *practicing Catholics* having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
3. Should godparents attend another parish, they are required to provide the Certificate of Attendance for Baptism Class at the time of Baptismal registration.
4. The recommended parish donation to cover administrative expenses is \$55.00 (for church parishioners) or \$75.00 (for non-parishioners).



Once all parish requirements have been completed, bring the following required documents to the church office: child's birth certificate, godparent's Marriage Certificate (if a couple) or their Baptism Certificate (if single), adoption certificate if applicable, and Mass Attendance Card to schedule a date for the child's Baptism. **THE DATE FOR BAPTISM CANNOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL** all the above paperwork is completed and turned into the parish office.

THE GODPARENTS

Godparents must be chosen responsibly by the parents. The godparents role is to ensure that the child is raised in the Catholic faith. They should be a good example for the child being baptized.

A godparent can be any practicing Catholic, 17 years of age or older. The godparent must have received the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, 1st Communion and Confirmation.



Baptisms in English are held on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. Space is limited to 10 kids per celebration. Please call the office to verify available spaces.

Please bring all required completed documentation to the church office for a date to be scheduled.

ONLY under certain special marital or family circumstances may Baptisms be scheduled directly with a priest.

NOTE:
No Baptisms are held on *April 1*

