



Holy Trinity Catholic Church St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Baptism

Congratulations

Congratulations on the birth or adoption of your infant! With great joy, we rejoice with you on the gift of a new child God has blessed you with. Through Baptism, you are inviting God to be a part of your child's life.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is the first sacrament received by the faithful, as it is also the first of the three sacraments of Christian initiation, along with First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It lays the foundation for the Christian life, and is "the gateway to life in the Spirit" (CCC. 1213). Through Baptism, we are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, and incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ.

Parish Membership

As an indication of their intention to raise their child in the practice of the Catholic faith, parents are required to register in the parish, attending Mass, and practicing their faith prior to baptism. Parents registered in other parishes may have their children baptized here with Pastor's approval.

Raising Children Catholic

Because of the importance of Baptism, there must be a founded hope that an infant will be brought up in the Catholic faith (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 868, §1). During Baptism, parents and godparents accept, promise and commit to raise the child in the practice of Catholic faith. Parents with the help of godparents are obligated, after Baptism, to bring their children to Mass each week, to make sure that their children are educated in the faith, and to make sure that they receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. *For children 4 years of age and older, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator, Sharon Hennick, for enrollment in children's Religious Education classes. 541-297-5555 or the Parish Office 541-329-0697.*

Baptism Preparation Class

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith (canon 774, §2). Therefore, parents are required to be instructed on the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism and the obligations that come from it (canon 851, §3). To fulfill this requirement, **parents and godparents are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Class** at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. Dates:

November 12, 2020

February 11, 2021

May 20, 2021

August 19, 2021

If you are unable to make the above listed classes, you are welcome to attend classes at another Catholic Church and bring record of your attendance at the classes.

Subsequent Children

If parents or godparents attended Baptism Classes within the last 3 years, it is not necessary to attend the class again.

Godparents

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. Godparents can be family members and friends qualified to serve in that capacity. Parents may choose a godfather and a godmother, or just one godparent (canon 873). Godparents not only serve as a witness at the ceremony of Baptism but also assist the baptized in leading a Christian life (canon 872).

Therefore, Church law requires that godparents be people who are living the Catholic faith and meet the following qualifications (canon 874, §1):

- They should ordinarily be at least 16 years old.
- They must be Catholics who have received Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith, including attendance at weekly Mass.
- They must be married in the Church if they are in a marital relationship.
- Parents of the child to be baptized may not serve as godparents.

If godparents are not able to be present in person for the Baptism, proxies may be designated to stand in for them at the ceremony. Please make sure to mention this when registering your child.

Non-Catholic Sponsor: In addition to a Catholic godparent, a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be chosen by parents. He/she is not to participate in the Baptism except together with a Catholic godparent and then only as a witness of the baptism (canon 874, §2). Fallen away Catholics may not serve as non-Catholic witnesses. No documents are required for a non-Catholic witness.

Baptism Dates

Parents are to contact the Baptism Coordinator, Cynthia Kroll, to schedule a date for the Baptism of their child.

Offerings

It is customary to make an offering to the parish or the priest/deacon on the occasion of a baptism (e.g., \$50-\$100). However, this is not required, especially for families in need. Please make sure to include "Baptism Donation" on the Memo line.

Questions? Please contact: Cynthia Kroll 720-984-3388 ckchooselife35@gmail.com or the Parish Office 541-329-0697 or holytrinitybandon@yahoo.com.