



Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

Capilla de Santísima Trinidad

Guidelines for the Baptism of Infants

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized! These policies and guidelines are designed to provide you with what you need to know to prepare for this important day in your child's life. Please review the information here and contact the Parish Office if you have any other questions.

- 1) Parents must be registered members of a Catholic parish to have their child (6 years of age or younger) baptized at Our Lady of Sorrows. At least one parent must be baptized.
 - a. If you are not currently a registered member of our parish but would like to officially join, you may do so when registering for the baptism preparation small group.
 - b. If you are not a registered member or no longer live in Victoria, you must provide us with a letter from the Pastor of your current parish before the baptism, giving us permission to baptize your child here.

- 2) At least one godparent is required and there can be no more than two. There is only to be one godmother, one godfather, or one of each. If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other female. Parents cannot be their children's godparents.
 - a. Godparents must be Catholic, at least 16 years of age, be in good standing with the Church, and have their sacraments of initiation, i.e. baptism, confirmation, and communion. If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church, i.e. not cohabitating, married by the Justice of the Peace, or a common law couple.
 - b. Sacramental records of the godparents are required before the baptism.
 - c. If godparents are from another parish, they must provide a letter of good standing from their pastor.

- 3) Parents and godparents who seek baptism at Our Lady of Sorrows must participate in the "Reborn" baptismal preparation small group at least once.
 - a. The small group is led by trained sponsors from the parish who will act as ambassadors, guides, and prayerful support. They should sit with parents and godparents at Sunday Mass and welcome them more deeply into the life of the parish.
 - b. The small group is made up of the sponsors, parents, and godparents. If the parents know of other friends or family who need baptismal preparation, too, they may also be invited.
 - c. The small group can meet whenever and wherever is best for the small group – the participants' or sponsors' homes, a parish meeting room, on the weekend, etc.
 - d. "Reborn" is a 3-part video series with an accompanying study guide. Videos must be watched, and the study guide filled out.



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- 4) The following is a summary list of the paperwork the office will need from you:
 - a. Civil birth certificate for the child to be baptized
 - b. Sacramental records of the godparent(s)
 - c. Letter of Good Standing from the pastor of the godparent(s) if not a member of the parish
 - d. Proof of completed "Reborn" study guide for parents and godparents, or Certificate or Letter of Completion, if already completed in another parish.
 - e. If not a member of the parish, a Letter of Permission from your home pastor is needed for Our Lady of Sorrows to celebrate the baptism

- 5) All Baptisms are celebrated at 3:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows on the 3rd Sunday in Spanish and the 4th Sunday in English. On occasion, baptisms may change to a single date that month and be celebrated bilingually due to Easter, Christmas, or other unforeseen reasons.

- 6) Baptism celebration kits containing the white vestment, candle, shell, etc. can be a memorable gift and can be purchased at most Catholic religious goods stores. However, they are not required and are not sold at the office. We simply ask that you dress your child in white and bring a white candle. Plain white candles are sold in the parish office.

- 7) On the day of the baptism, arrive early and take a seat in one of the front pews. The crowd from the 2 p.m. Mass might still be leaving but know that you are welcome to come into the church and be seated. Photographers are welcome as long as they are not a distraction – be sure to check in with the celebrant beforehand. And again, congratulations!

"Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments."

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213*

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____