



St. Aloysius Catholic Church

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CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Pastor's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Christian community of St. Aloysius Parish is happy to welcome your child as a member of God's family in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Baptism is the first of the "Sacraments of Initiation" which also include Confirmation and Eucharist. In Baptism, your child receives the new life of grace in Jesus Christ. Confirmation strengthens the Baptismal grace and commitment, and regular celebration of the Eucharist is our nourishment for our Christian journey.

Baptism is rightly seen as the "gateway" to the other sacraments, and the first step on a lifelong journey of faith. We hope that you will recognize it as such and do everything you can to ensure that your child continues to be formed in the Catholic faith in which he/she is baptized.

Please contact our parish office for further questions about Baptisms at St. Aloysius. You are to be commended for wishing to share the gift of your Catholic faith with your child.

In Christ,

Rev M. Pinto
Parish Priest

**Father Melvin Pinto, Ocd
Pastor**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can be baptized? Any child or adult not previously baptized in the Catholic Church or another Christian community. In the case of infants, generally at least one of the parents will be a baptized, practicing Catholic.

What about adult baptism? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is specifically designed to assist adults in their preparation for baptism and/or the other sacraments of initiation. The process begins in September and the sacraments of initiation are celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

How do I request a baptism? Fill out an application form online or pick up a form through our Parish Office. Forms can be scanned and emailed back to us, dropped off in our Parish mailbox, deposited in our Sunday offertory or returned to our Office during regular business hours. After receiving your application, we will contact you to arrange a meeting with our Parish Priest prior to the Baptism.

How far in advance of my desired date should I apply? It is a good idea to register at least six weeks before the desired date of baptism.

Do the parents of the child have to be registered at St. Aloysius Parish? Applicants should be registered members of our Parish. Kindly do not apply if you reside outside of our Parish Boundary area. For questions about our Parish Boundary, please contact our Parish Office.

Do parents have to be married in the Catholic Church to have their child baptized? Children will not be denied baptism because of the marital status of their parents.

Who can be a godparent/sponsor? Godparents must be baptized and confirmed Catholics, at least 16 years old, living a life consistent with the faith and the responsibility of a godparent.

Can a non-Catholic be a godparent? A baptized Christian may act as a Christian Witness to the baptism. A Christian witness must be accompanied by a Catholic godparent.

Multiple Godparents? Two of the same gender? The rite of Baptism requires only one godparent. Where two are chosen, the norms speak of a godfather and godmother. Should you choose additional sponsors please note that only two names will appear on the certificate and in the register of baptisms.

Is there a fee for Baptism? For Baptism there is no fee but we always encourage you to make a free- will offering. Anything you give will be a great support to help with the expenses of running the parish.

Where is the Baptism recorded? Our parish, like every Catholic parish, keeps complete records of all baptisms celebrated in our church. Copies of certificates can be obtained from the parish office.