



ST. ANTHONY
—DE PADUA—
CATHOLIC PARISH

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Mt 28:19-20; cf. Mk 16:15-16.

About the Sacrament

Since Pentecost the sacrament of Baptism has been celebrated as we understand it. The word baptism comes from the Greek *baptizein* which means to "plunge" or "immerse." The catechumen's immersion into the water symbolizes Christ's death from which they rise up and share in His resurrection into new life. Christ commanded his disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and he affirms the necessity for salvation. However, while God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, God is not bound to his sacraments.

Preparation

Candidates for Baptism should be registered members of the Parish for at least four months before beginning preparation for the Sacrament or provide a letter from their former Parish. Please contact the Parish Office to verify your registration.

Infant Baptisms

Infant Baptism Information Classes are held twice a month on the first and third Sunday at 11:45 AM in the family room in the vestibule of the Church. Call the Parish Office to register for this class. If you have attended a baptism class within the last four years with our parish, you only need to come into the parish office to fill out a Baptism Information Card.

Children

Children, age 7 to 8th grade, may need special instruction through the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program. More information may be found here or by calling the Faith Formation office at (574) 282-2308.

Adults (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA)

RCIA is for adults who are either a.) beginning their journey toward becoming a member of the Church, or b.) has not received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. These are received at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday evening. More information may be found here.



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Baptismal Sponsors

Baptismal sponsors must be 16 years of age or older. At least one sponsor must be Catholic, and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. If the Catholic sponsor does not belong to St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church, a letter is needed from their parish stating that they are an active and practicing Catholic. To print a form to take to the parish of registration please visit the parish website www.stasb.org or call the parish office for a copy.

When We Celebrate

Baptisms are celebrated weekly (except during Lent) after the 4:15 PM Saturday Mass and after the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. Baptisms may be celebrated during a weekend Mass. There are no baptisms during the Lenten Season.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition:

The meaning and grace are evident through the rite. Briefly walking through the rite, the Sign of the Cross marks the person who will belong to Christ and "signifies the grace of the redemption Christ won for us by his cross." The proclamation of the Word of God is to enlighten the candidates and assembly with the revealed truth. The faith response of this truth is inseparable from the sacrament. The person is anointed with the Oil of Catechumens to prepare them to profess the faith of the Church. The invocation over the water asks the power of the Holy Spirit be sent upon the water so that persons baptized may be born of water and Spirit. The essential rite is then performed, the immersion into the water. This is followed by a post-baptismal anointing, which announces the second anointing of Confirmation, to be administered later, to "confirm" and complete the baptismal sacrament.

The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ," has risen with Christ. The candle, lit from the Easter candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte. In him, the baptized are "the light of the world."

Donations

There is no fee, however many families wish to offer a donation on the occasion of their child's baptism. This may be placed in an envelope and given to the priest or deacon on the day of the baptism or It may be mailed to the parish:

St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Parish
2114 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617

Sacramental Records

Please call Tina Masterson at the parish office: (574) 282-2308.