



## Christ the King Catholic Church

### **Congratulations on the birth of your new child!**

*"In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon Him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son. With you I am well pleased.'" Mk 1:9-11*

Baptism marks the beginning of a child's participation in the sacramental life of the church. It is a moment where parents make the promise to raise their child in the Catholic faith and continue to give example by their own lives of faith.

Baptism is the first opportunity that we have, as the child's Catholic community, to receive and welcome the child, and especially to welcome him or her as a beloved child of God.

Baptism is an initiation into the body of Christ: a community of believers who place Jesus and His Gospel at the center of their lives by living in communion with Him. Becoming part of this body of Christ, the child is forever bound to the other members of His body: united with them in prayer, in struggle, in suffering, in joy and in their search for greater union with God.

The baptismal process aims to help parents prepare for their vocation as primary teachers of the faith. Supported by the involvement of the godparents and our Catholic community, the parents will continue to grow in their understanding of the faith and application of it in their own homes as their family grows.

We welcome you to begin this preparation for the special day of your child's Baptism!

Please see guidelines on the following pages for the Baptism process. If we have not met you already, we will be in contact soon to get this process underway. Don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions!

## **Requirements**

- Families should be registered members of Christ the King Church. If you are not registered members, a letter from the church where you *are* registered must be sent to Christ the King giving us permission to perform the sacrament of Baptism for your child. If not currently registered at any church, we will give you a registration packet for Christ the King.
- Parents and godparents must attend one preparation class (see the list of dates).
- At least one parent needs to be a practicing Catholic and who agrees to raise the child in the faith.

## **Choosing Godparents**

Godparents are seen as the official representatives of the Catholic Christian Community into which the child will be baptized. They promise their loving support to the parents and agree to aid in the upbringing of the child in their life of faith. Along with you, during the baptism, they renounce sin and evil and pronounce their faith in God. In a sense, they become members of the child's "immediate spiritual family" and remain part of his or her life as a source of guidance, support and inspiration.

Because of the nature of the role of godparent there are a few requirements to consider when choosing the Godparents for your child:

- A godparent must be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- If married, was married in a Catholic church by a priest or deacon
- Is a practicing Catholic: attends Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and receives the Sacraments of the Church regularly.

Some other things to consider:

- If the godparent you have chosen is not available to be present at your child's Baptism, an appropriate proxy may stand in their place
- Only one Catholic godparent is necessary. A baptized non-Catholic may be a Christian Witness
- If there are two Catholic godparents, one must be male and one must be female

Once you have chosen the godparents, it is important to discuss with them what led you to the decision. It is an honor to be chosen as a godparent. It is also a great responsibility. Let them know how you wish them to be involved in the life of the child and in teaching the faith. As a life-long friend to your child, a godparent will be a special presence who cultivates his or her faith and gifts.

## **Stipends or Fees**

We do not charge stipends or fees for sacraments, including infant Baptism.

However, a suggested donation of \$60 covers the cost of the preparation class and materials.

It is also customary for some families to offer a donation to the church at the time of the Baptism in thanksgiving to God for the life, health and blessing of their child.

**Classes are offered once a month. Contact the parish office  
for days and times.**

**\*\*You must pre-register for class \*\***

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