



*Saint John Vianney Catholic Church*

*4097 - 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bettendorf, IA 52722-2120*

*Very Rev. James Vrba, V.F., Pastor*

*Rev. Ross Epping, Vicar*

**Greetings!**

Congratulations as you prepare for the baptism of your child! We look forward to the celebration and are sure it will be a memorable experience for you and your family.

The Sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated on most weekends, unless another major ritual or parish event is planned. We encourage the sacrament to be celebrated during the Masses on the Lord's Day. We can also celebrate Baptism following the Saturday 4:30pm or Sunday 11:00am Masses. *(Should you choose to baptize your child during Lent, it must be celebrated after Mass.)*

**The Method of Baptism**

The Rite of Baptism uses either the pouring of water over the head of the child or the total immersion of the child in the baptism font. Parents may choose either method.

**The Baptism Preparation Class**

The Baptism Preparation Class is a special time for you. We encourage you to attend the class prior to the birth of your child, if possible. Because baptism is such a significant event in your child's life, godparents are also invited to attend the class. The class is held monthly. Please call **332-7910** to register.

The following guidelines will help you prepare for your child's special day:

**Baptism During Mass Guidelines** for babies up to 6 months old.

- The parents, godparents, and child(ren) should be in the Gathering Space 30 minutes before Mass. A representative of the liturgy committee will meet you to explain your participation. The parents, godparents, and child(ren) to be baptized will be part of the entrance procession.
- After announcing the name of your child, the parents are asked the following question: **"Why do you wish to have your child baptized?"** The baptism preparation class will give you thoughts on how to answer this question, but feel free to answer it any way you wish.
- The parents are the gift bearers, so please entrust your child(ren) to the godparents as you take part in the liturgy.
- Pictures and videos may be taken during the baptismal rite. Also, the celebrant will be happy to pose for photos after Mass.
- If you are choosing Baptism by immersion, please dress your child in clothing that is easy to remove. You can bring your baby to the baptismal font wrapped in a blanket, then after the baptism, your child will be returned to you wrapped in a large, warm terrycloth towel.

- After the baptism by immersion, the parents, godparents, and child(ren) will go to the Gathering Space where a private area will be provided for you to redress your child in white clothing. You may also put baby's things in that room prior to Mass.

**Baptisms After Masses:**

These are celebrated after the 4:30pm Mass on Saturdays or after the 11:00am Mass on Sundays, either by immersion or the pouring of water. Please make arrangements as far ahead as possible to ensure your desired date.

**Role of the Godparent/Sponsor:**

At the beginning of the Rite of Baptism, the godparent or sponsor is asked: "Are you willing to help the parents of this child in their duties as Christian parents." In order to fulfill this role, the godparent/sponsor must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic; having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist and be at least 16 years old. A baptized person who belongs to another Christian denomination may serve as a "Christian Witness." Hopefully, one of the godparents/sponsors will also be your child's sponsor during the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Again, we want to offer our congratulations on your child's baptism. Please call our office at 332-7910 or email [office@sjvbett.org](mailto:office@sjvbett.org), if we can be of further assistance.

Baptism Coordinator  
**Julie Mishler**

Director of Liturgy and Music  
**Eleanor Kiel**