



St. John Vianney Church
4097 18th Street
Bettendorf, IA 52722-2120

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

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 most weekends, unless another ritual/parish event is planned. We encourage celebrating the sacrament during Mass on the Lord's Day. It may also be celebrated following either the 4:30pm (Saturday) or 11:00am (Sunday) Masses. (*During Lent, it must be 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 baptismal font. Parents may choose either method.

The Baptism Preparation Class This class, held every other month, is a special time for you and we encourage you to attend it prior to your child's birth, if possible. As baptism is a significant event in your child's life, godparents are also invited to attend the class. **Please contact the parish office to register.**

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

Baptism During Mass (*for babies up to 6 months old*)

- Parents, godparents, and the child to be baptized will be part of the entrance procession, so should be in the Gathering Space 30 minutes before Mass to meet with the priest.
- After announcing your child's name, parents are asked: **"Why do you wish to have your child baptized?"** The baptism prep class will assist you on how to answer this question, but you may answer however you wish.
- Parents serve as gift bearers. Please entrust your child to their godparents as you take part in the liturgy.
- Pictures and/or videos may be taken during the baptismal rite; the celebrant will be available for additional photos after Mass, if you so choose.
- If choosing baptism by immersion, dress your child in easily removable clothing. Bring your baby to the baptismal font wrapped in a blanket; after baptism, your child will be returned to you wrapped in a large, warm towel.
- After baptism by immersion, parents and godparents will take the child to the Gathering Space to dress him/her in white clothing. A private area will be provided.

Baptisms After Mass

Celebrated after 4:30pm Mass (Saturdays) or after 11:00am Mass (Sundays) by immersion or pouring of water. Please schedule as early as possible to ensure your desired date.

Role of the Godparent/Sponsor

At the beginning of the Rite of Baptism, the godparent(s) or sponsor(s) 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, congratulations on your child's baptism. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Baptism Coordinator
Julie Mishler