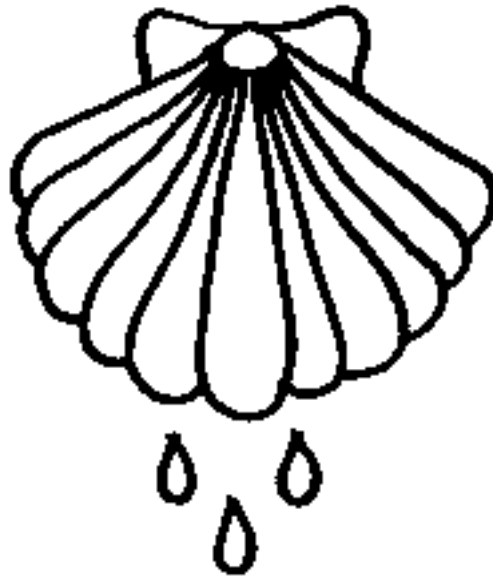


Baptism for Infants & Children
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Ypsilanti, MI



“As Christians, through the Holy Spirit received in Baptism, we have the gifts of faith and commitment to live as children of God and as brothers, to be the “leaven” of a new humanity, in solidarity and full of peace and hope.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the whole parish, let me extend my congratulations to you and to your families as you welcome new life into the world, and welcome the grace of God, which leads us to eternal life, into the hearts of your children.

In the General Introduction to the Rite of Baptism for Children, we read: "through baptism men and women are incorporated into Christ. They are formed into God's people, and they obtain forgiveness of all their sins. They are raised from their natural human condition to the dignity of adopted children. They become a new creation through water and the Holy Spirit. Hence they are called, and are indeed, the children of God."

You have consented, by having your children baptized, to raising them to love God and to live and grow as his children, in the context of his Holy Catholic Church. This is an immense and sacred responsibility and I want to extend, to each of you, my most sincere thanks in your accepting of it and pledge my help, as your pastor, towards your success in this endeavor.

In this brief guide to our parish's celebration of the sacrament you will find many of the resources you need to help your children begin their journeys of faith through baptism. If I, or any member of the clergy and staff of St. John the Baptist, can be of any further assistance, please be sure to let us know. And know that you and your children are in our prayers.

May God bless each of you and bless your children.

Fr. Bob Roggenbuck

Pastor

Resources for Formation

Listed here are some helpful resources as you prepare for the baptism of your children. Please take a few moments to make use of them.

- <http://old.usccb.org/video/sacraments.shtml>
- <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments/baptism/>
- http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm



General Policies:



- Baptism is ordinarily celebrated by a member of the Catholic clergy (bishop, priest, deacon) in the parish to which the family of the child belongs.
- The sacrament employs water contained in a baptismal font and the child may be immersed or sprinkled with this water.
- Children should be baptized as near to their births as possible.
- Children should be baptized in a common celebration. The celebration of this sacrament is not properly considered "private."
- Those to be baptized should be assigned at least one (and normally, two) godparent(s) who must be practicing Catholic(s). Other witnesses may attend and need not be Catholic to do so but are not permitted to serve as godparents. If assigned godparents cannot attend the baptism, another member of the Catholic faith must act as their proxy.
- Baptisms are not forbidden during Lent but are generally discouraged.

Specific Policies at St. John the Baptist:

- Those wishing to have their children baptized at St. John the Baptist should be registered members for at least three months and active, contributing members of the parish. To arrange a baptism and to begin the preparation, please contact the parish office no less than three months in advance.
- Those wishing to register for the sacrament of baptism and for the preparatory course, for their children, **must contact the parish office directly** during normal business hours at 483-3360 to schedule.
- Godparents who are not members of St. John the Baptist must obtain a letter of recommendation from their home parish and should be mailed directly to St. John the Baptist. Godparents will not be admitted to participate if this recommendation is not received prior to the date of baptism. Godparent(s) must meet the following requirements:
 - *Mature enough to undertake this responsibility (at least 16 years old)
 - *Catholic: One Catholic Godparent is required, although both a Catholic Godmother and a Godfather are preferred.
 - * Catholic person(s) who themselves have been baptized, confirmed and sharing in the Eucharist.
 - * Active, practicing, registered member(s) of a Catholic parish, whom are able to share their faith with the child.
 - *Of different genders: If there is only one Godparent, that Godparent may be of either gender. If there are two Godparents or one Godparent and one Christian witness, they must be one of different genders.
 - *A Baptized, believing and actively participating Christian who is not a Catholic may act as a Christian witness, along with a Catholic Godparent.
- At least one of the parents of the child(ren) to be baptized must complete a brief sacramental preparation course with the parish clergy. This is required only once, not needing to be repeated for children baptized at a later date.
- The celebrant for baptism during mass will be a priest while the celebrant outside of mass may be either a priest or deacon.
- St. John the Baptist cannot accommodate requests for particular celebrants from among the parish clergy as these are assigned based solely on availability. Any member of the parish clergy, or a visiting member of the clergy, may be assigned to celebrate the sacrament without prior notification or consent of those participating.
- Visiting clergy (those not assigned to St. John the Baptist by the Bishop of Lansing) are welcome, provided they are in good standing with the Catholic Church, to act as guest celebrants with the consent of the pastor of St. John the Baptist and the Bishop of Lansing. Any guest celebrants should be arranged directly with the pastor of St. John the Baptist.
- The preparatory course is held at St. John's for both English and Spanish speaking families:
 - o The 2nd Tuesday evening of February, April, June, August, October, and December.
 - o 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 - o Pre-registration is required.

- The sacrament is celebrated:
 - The 2nd Sunday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at the 5:00pm Saturday evening vigil mass or the 9:00 am or 11:00 am Sunday morning mass.
 - Baptisms are celebrated during at the Spanish Mass on the 1st Sunday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at 1:00 pm.
 - The 2nd Sunday of every month at 2:30 pm, outside of the celebration of mass, at St. John's, if a Deacon is available.
 - In a communal fashion, meaning that multiple children may be baptized at the same celebration. So-called "private baptisms" are not celebrated as such.
 - Direct all inquiries and communication to: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 734.483.3360.