

INFANT BAPTISM

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Updated 9/12/2018

Congratulations! We rejoice with you for the gift of your child. Knowing that this is a special time for you, we invite you to take some time to look at another special event: the baptism of your child. The baptism of a child is more than pouring water and removing original sin. This action of pouring water symbolizes that this child shares in the life of Christ, and becomes a member of God's family, the Church. Baptism is a beginning of the child's faith life. As the child grows and matures, parents are the ones who primarily hand on their own faith and its meaning to them.

PARENTS

As you think about the baptism of your child, considerations arise:

- *What does faith mean to me/my spouse? How do I/we live my/our faith?*
- *Am I living my life in the community of the Church? In what ways is the Church my community?*
- *What is the faith I/we want our child to have?*

In having a child baptized, parents are making a commitment of faith. Parents are committing themselves to regular and active participation in the life of the Church so that the passing on of the faith to their child will become a reality.

Parents must be registered as parishioners, either at St. Max or another Catholic parish. **If registered at another parish, please provide a letter from your pastor acknowledging this baptism is taking place at here at St. Max.**

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Parents preparing for the baptism of their first child are required to participate in one baptismal preparation session. Godparents are strongly encouraged to join the parents. Infants are welcome to this session, but adults may find it less distracting if someone else can watch baby at home.

If you've already had a child baptized here at St. Max, you don't need to participate in another session. If you've participated in a baptismal prep session in another parish, please provide a certificate of completion or a letter from the pastor verifying your participation.

Baptismal preparation sessions are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month, but please check the parish website for the most up-to-date schedule:

www.saint-max.org/baptism

SPONSORS (Godparents and Christian Witnesses)

Parents who present their child for baptism should give prayerful thought about whom they wish to be sponsors for their child. They should be committed Christians who are living their belief in Jesus.

At least one of the sponsors must be a Catholic godparent who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation, is in good standing with the Church and who regularly worships with and participates in their parish. Another sponsor may also be a Catholic godparent of the opposite sex. One of the sponsors may instead be a non-Catholic Christian of another faith tradition.

As a Catholic godparent or non-Catholic Christian Witness, the sponsor accepts the responsibility of being involved in the faith life of that child. Hopefully, the sponsor will be someone who will continually develop a relationship with the child to counsel, give assistance and share faith, as he/she grows to maturity. We ask you to share these expectations with the sponsors you choose.

The Godparent form must be filled out by the potential sponsor and returned to the parish office. The form for a Catholic godparent must be **signed by their pastor and returned to the Parish Office before a baptism will be scheduled.**

CELEBRATIONS OF BAPTISM

The Rite of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 1:30pm.

You can find the most up-to-date schedule of possible dates on the website, listed below.

SCHEDULING A BAPTISM DATE

After all three forms (information sheet AND BOTH godparent/sponsor forms) are turned into the office, you will receive confirmation of the baptism date. All forms must be submitted BEFORE a date may be scheduled, ideally at least two weeks prior to your potential liturgy date. You may e-mail the signed and completed forms, or return them hard copy.

We look forward to celebrating the sacrament of Baptism with your family and welcoming your child into the community of the Church.



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