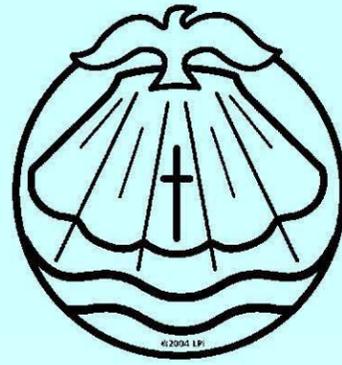


Baptism at Holy Rosary



Congratulations!

We are excited to welcome your son or daughter to our community!

Who is this packet for?

This packet is for parents (or legal guardians) of infants and small children (under age 7) who are seeking baptism for their children.

For adults or older children who are interested in being baptized or becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office.

Parents who are seeking baptism for their child should normally be participating members of the St. Benedict community, and registered at the parish for at least 6 months.

When should a child be baptized?

A child should generally be baptized within a few weeks of birth (CIC, c. 867 §1), as soon as possible after the parents have been prepared and catechized regarding the Sacrament of Baptism (IB 11). Baptisms are not usually celebrated during Lent or Advent.

When a child is in danger of death, baptism is to take place immediately (see CIC, c. 867 §2). At a later date, ceremonies are to be offered according to the rites. (IB 14)

Where will the baptism take place?

The Baptism will take place at the baptismal font in the Parish Church during a Sunday liturgy or communal baptismal celebration.

What rules govern infant baptism?

Infant Baptism is governed by:

- The universal law of the Catholic Church (Code of Canon Law)
- The policies of the Archdiocese of Seattle (*Many gifts, One Spirit*)
- The Rite of Baptism for Children
- The policies of St. Benedict Parish

What is Baptism?

The first of the seven sacraments, and the “door” which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist constitute the “sacraments of initiation” by which a believer receives the remission of original and personal sin, begins a new life in Christ and the Holy Spirit, and is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ.

The rite of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water, or pouring water on the head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Glossary*)

Why does the Church baptize infants?

The Church baptizes infants because they are born with original sin. They need to be freed from the power of the Evil One and brought into that realm of freedom which belongs to the children of God. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth. The practice of infant Baptism has always been practiced by the Church.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1250-1252)

Requirements and Responsibilities of Parents

Parents should be actively living their faith, participating in the sacraments, and seeking to deepen their relationship with God.

Who may request baptism?

Parents (guardians) are responsible for requesting the sacrament of baptism for their infant/child. A period of catechetical preparation is required for the parents (guardians) and godparents of those preparing for the baptism of infants and children. (IB 1)

Consent by at least one biological parent or legal guardian is the minimum requirement for baptism to occur (see CIC, c. 868 §1, 1°).

What must parents do prior to baptism?

Parents must:

- Ensure the paperwork is in order
- Select appropriate sponsors (godparents)
- Complete a baptism preparation course
- Make the pastor or baptism coordinator aware of any special needs your child might have.

What obligations to parents have after baptism?

For an infant/child to be baptized at least one practicing Catholic shall agree to raise the child in the practice of the faith.

Parents (guardians) have a sacred responsibility:

- Raise their children in the practice of the faith
- Instruct their children on the beliefs of the Catholic Church
- Present their child for First Communion (age 7) and Confirmation (age 16).

The pastor may determine that baptism is to be delayed if there is a lack of intent on the part of the parents/legal guardians to raise the child Catholic. (IB 13)

Do you have a question not answered by this packet?

Contact the parish office:

Phone: 425-778-3122

SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

What is the role of the Sponsors (godparents)?

Sponsors (godparents) are chosen by the parents/legal guardians of the infant or child to be baptized and are willing to accept the responsibility of presenting the infant or child for baptism, assisting the parents/legal guardians, and witnessing the public event of the sacrament. A sponsor (godparent) is also responsible for assisting the baptized in fulfilling the obligations acquired by the sacrament (see CIC, c. 872).

Sponsors (godparents) may not be the parents/legal guardians of the individual being baptized (see CIC, c. 874 §1, 5°).

A Sponsor must be:

- A Practicing Catholic in good standing.
 - Confirmed
 - At least sixteen years of age
 - not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
 - If married, Sacramentally married in the Church.
- A sponsor should be a good example of the faith and able to help the baptized on their faith journey.

Although one sponsor (godparent) is sufficient, when there are two sponsors (godparents), one must be male and one female (see CIC, c. 873).

One of the two sponsors (godparents) must be Catholic; the other may be a baptized non-Catholic. The Catholic party is to be a practicing member of his/her Catholic faith community. The non-Catholic party is called a Christian witness and not a sponsor or godparent (see CIC, c. 874 §2). The ability or willingness of the non-Catholic to support the parents/legal guardians in their intention to raise their child in the Catholic faith is to be considered.