

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish

Cupertino, CA

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the faith community of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, I would like to extend our prayerful congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized.

The Rite of Baptism begins as follows:

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring her/him up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

To prepare you and the godparents for the celebration of this sacrament for the commitment you are to undertake, the Church asks of you the following:

1. If you have not already filled out a baptism form online, please do so by visiting our website at www.StJosCup.org. Click the sacrament button found at the upper left corner of the site and then click baptism.
2. Set an appointment to meet with the priest assigned by phone or email.
3. Attend a baptism class session, which is scheduled on the last Tuesday of the month. Please call (408) 730-5519 to make arrangements. This baptism class session will provide information and discussion on the Sacrament, the Rite, the significance, godparents, etc.

Once again, please accept our congratulations and prayers as you prepare to make this faith commitment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Gregory Kimm, Pastor

Questions commonly asked:

Who can be a Godparent?

The Church outlines in *Canon 874* that parents choose quality sponsors to aid them in their duty and responsibility of caring for their child's spiritual needs. A sponsor must meet these basic criteria:

1. Be at least 16 years old.
2. Be a confirmed Catholic
3. Be a fully-initiated Catholic (Has received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist)
4. Practicing Catholic (attends Mass regularly)
5. One male and/or one female can be chosen. One non-Catholic Christian can serve with a Catholic sponsor under the title of witness.

Do godparents have to attend the baptism class session?

Yes, godparents are required to attend.

May we have a private Baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament of the Church and is, therefore, most properly celebrated with the faith community. To that end, we have a specific schedule for baptisms.

Do I have to give my child a saint's name?

Though not required, it is a long standing Catholic custom to give a child a Christian (i.e., a saint's) name. We hope that the child will come to know why the saint is seen as holy and to imitate the saint's special gift of discipleship.

Why is it important for parents and sponsors to have a firm commitment to the parish community when bringing their children to celebrate the sacraments and at all times?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that through baptism we become members to each other, "From the baptismal fonts is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes: 'For by one Spirit we were baptized into one body'."(1267) As a family we have the opportunity and obligation to help each other in our faith walk.

When are baptisms scheduled in the church?

Baptisms are celebrated during the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 11 am.

What is the donation?

An offering of **\$100.00 (for parishioner)** and **\$150.00 (for non-parishioner)** is appreciated in support of the church.

It is customary as well to give something to the priest or deacon who administered the sacrament.

Schedule of Baptismal Celebrations

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM

“Baptism is the door to life and to the kingdom of God. Christ offered this first sacrament of the new law to all that they might have eternal life. He entrusted this sacrament and the Gospel to the Church when he told his apostles: “Go, make disciples of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, baptism is, above all, the sacrament of that faith by which men and women enlightened by the Spirit’s grace respond to the gospel of Christ. That is why the Church believes it is her most basic and necessary duty to inspire all, catechumens, parents of children still to be baptized, and godparents, to that true and living faith by which they adhere to Christ and enter into or confirm their commitment of the new covenant. To accomplish this, the Church prescribes the pastoral instruction of catechumens, the preparation of children’s parents, the celebration of God’s Word, and the profession of faith.

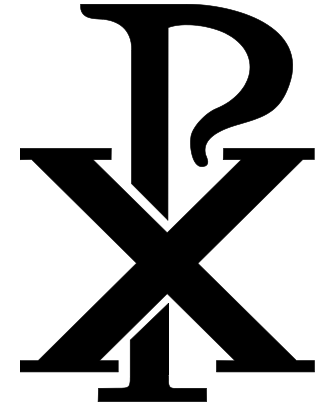
“Further, baptism is the sacrament by which men and women are incorporated into the Church, built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit, into a holy nation and a royal priesthood.

It is a sacramental bond of unity linking all who have been signed by it.

Because of that unchangeable effect ..., the rite of Baptism is held in highest honor by all Christians....”.

*General Introduction, no. 3,4
Rite of Baptism for Children*

Preparing for your Child’s Baptism



“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14

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