



PREPARING TO HAVE YOUR CHILD

BAPTIZED



SAINT JOHN *the* EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

What is Baptism?

In baptism, we are forgiven of any sins we have ever committed, including original sin, which we inherited from Adam and Eve. And We are welcomed lovingly into the family of faith that is the Church.



Baptism is a sacrament and a sacrament is an outward and visible sign, instituted by Christ, to confer God's inward and visible grace. It is a sign of the real, free and undeserved help God gives us to respond to his invitation to be his children.

Baptism frees us from sin, and indelibly marks us as reborn children of God. Through baptism, we become members of the body of Christ, his Church, and share in the mission of the Church: calling all to the love of Christ and taking part in building up the kingdom of God on earth

Preparation for Baptism

1. **Call Rachael Jensen, baptism coordinator, at (239) 566-8740**

We will have a conversation to determine your families needs and how best to proceed.

2. **Complete the baptism registration form online at sjecc.org under Forms**

This is what we will use to create the baptism certificate. ***Please note that nothing will be scheduled until this form is received.*** We schedule our baptisms after the 1pm mass on Sunday's or at 10am or 12pm on Saturdays. If those times do not work for you then please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

3. **Obtain the letter of good standing for the Godparent**

Godparents stand as representatives of the Catholic Church but also assist the parents in serving as guides, role models, sources of encouragement and helping raise them in the Catholic faith. This letter ensures that a godparent is eligible according to the Church to assume this duty. You may have a minimum of one or a maximum of two,(one male and one female over the age of 16), with at least one being a confirmed Catholic.

The godparent will need to contact their church (where they are registered and attend mass) and request a letter of good standing. It states that they are members and practicing Catholics. ***This letter will need to be turned in no later than 1 week prior to the baptism.***

4. **Complete a baptism class**

This class will be an opportunity to learn why we baptize, what baptism is and what the effects and obligations are that go along with it. ***Both parents are required to take this class.*** Your contact info will be shared with Katherine Standish and she will reach out to schedule the class.

5. **Celebration of Baptism!**

Congratulations to you and your little one! This begins the life-long journey or receiving and being transformed by the Love of God through Jesus Christ. (Please note that there is no cost for a baptism, but if you would like to make an offering to the priest you are more than welcome)

Baptism Form Submission Guidelines

All forms can be scanned and emailed to rachael@sjecc.com or brought to the office. All forms are due one week prior to the baptism. We will accept pictures of the forms but please make sure they are legible.

Baptism Preparation Checklist

- Submit the Baptism registration form
- Submit the godparents letter of good standing
- Complete a baptism preparation class
- Submit the letter of permission if not registered at St. John the Evangelist

