

A New Baby! Congratulations!



Congratulations on the birth of your baby! It is the aim of the Pastoral Staff and others involved in baptism preparation at St. Edith Parish to do our best to help prepare you for the celebration of the sacrament and for subsequent years.

We spend years in preparation for so many things in our lives. As our children grow up we will pay special attention to their needs. School and extracurricular activities will take up a great amount of your family time. You would not think twice of sending your son, or daughter out "into the world" without being as best prepared as they can be. Homework and endless hours of practice at any given number of activities will be a given in your household.

Knowing your intent and desire to prepare your son, or daughter for the years ahead keep in mind the time you commit to preparation for their religious and spiritual development as well. Baptism is not simply a cultural rite of initiation, or family social get together. Baptism is the gate to the sacraments and a door to the sacred.

Our goal as Christian parents is to prepare our children as best we can to embrace and understand this Catholic faith of ours. In being an integral component in our children's faith formation we set the stage so that our children make the faith their own and take their place in participating and sharing in the mission and ministry of the Lord, Jesus. If there are any questions about the following guidelines please call Deacon Ric at the Parish Office. We look forward to meeting you!

Fr. Jim McNulty, Pastor
Deacon Ric Misiak, Pastoral Associate

Getting Ready...



"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called **gift** because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; **grace** since it is given even to the guilty; **Baptism** because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; **enlightenment** because it radiates light; **clothing** since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and **seal** as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship."

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1216

- Baptisms occur typically on the 2nd, or 3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm (following the 11:00 am Mass).
- A baptismal class will be required of the parents and takes place on the Friday evening before the baptism. We ask that even if this is not your first child baptized (even at St. Edith) that you still plan on attending. During this gathering parish representatives will address the nature of the sacrament and the order of events at the baptism. Also discussed will be ways and ideas that parents may utilize to help foster faith formation from newborn through pre-school years. For this reason "experienced parents" are most helpful in aiding the conversation. Godparents are welcome, but not required, to attend.
- Baptisms are not celebrated during the Season of Lent respecting the special nature of this liturgical season.
- Baptisms are not private affairs. Baptism is rightly called a sacrament of welcoming. For in it we are welcomed into the Catholic community. It is the first of the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation. We become members of the Body of Christ and are incorporated into the life of the Church. As such it is a sacrament rightly celebrated within the context of community.

- Since it is communal and initiates us into the life of the community it is proper that the family is registered in the parish, understanding that their own participation in the life of the parish sets the example for their children.
- If you are not currently registered in a parish please ***consider yourself invited*** to join our faith community of St. Edith. We are a family centered parish with many opportunities for family faith formation. Please view other areas of our parish website for ongoing activities and special events. A registration form can be printed off here (parish registration form). Please bring this in to the Parish Office. Welcome!
- We ask that you plan at least one month in advance. Please call, or come into the office so that we may gather the necessary information.
- Godparents (Sponsors)
 - In the baptism of children a godparent is to be present in order to represent the expansion of the spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as a mother. As occasion offers, the godparent helps the parents to lead the child to profess the faith and to show this by living it.
 - Only one male, or one female godparent, or one of each sex will be noted in the parish baptismal registry as the child's sponsor(s).
 - At least one godparent (the Sponsor) should be a Roman Catholic (Latin Rite), 17 years of age, or older, who has celebrated the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. They should, also, be practicing the faith as they are role models for your child.
 - The second godparent may be a non-Catholic provided they are a baptized member of a Christian community because they, too, serve as a role model of having a convinced faith in Jesus Christ.
- Should your son, or daughter be of pre-school, or elementary age special at home sacramental instruction material will be provided to you for home educating and faith formation *prior to the administration of the sacrament*. As these children are a bit older it is proper that we invite and engage them in an understanding of the sacrament which is age appropriate.
- For those seeking baptism that are in their pre-teens to adulthood please refer to the section referencing the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Thank-you.

Again, congratulations! We look forward to talking with you!

