

Saint John Paul II Parish

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The Sacrament of Baptism for Children



"In Baptism every Christian personally meets Him; he is inserted into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and receives a new life, which is the life of God. What a great gift and what a great responsibility."

-Saint John Paul II during his homily on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 2003

By Baptism *all* sins are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn, nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God. (CCC 1263)

Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes us a new creature, an adopted son of God, who has become a partaker of the divine nature, a member of Christ and co-heir with Him and a temple of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1265)

Amen, Amen I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

- John 3:5

Baptism Guidelines

If the child to be Baptized is **under the age of seven**, please follow the guidelines below.

If the child's seventh birthday has occurred, please contact the Director of Religious Education at the Parish office for further instruction (johnpaulre@cableone.net).

1. If the Parents and the Godparents of the child are members of Saint John Paul II Parish or live within the Idaho Falls area:
 - Parents and Godparents need to submit proof of attending a Pre-Baptismal Class within the last two years
 - Pre-Baptismal classes in English are held the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 am at Christ the King Hall. Please email baptismjpii@cableone.net to register for a class
 - Pre-Baptismal classes in Spanish are held the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at Christ the King Hall and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Christ the King Hall. No pre-registration is needed

- 1a. If the Parents and/or the Godparents of the child do not live within the Idaho Falls area:
 - Parents need to submit a letter from their home Parish indicating permission to Baptize their child in Saint John Paul II Parish
 - Godparents need to submit a letter from their home Parish indicating permission to be a Godparent in Saint John Paul II Parish
 - Both Parents and Godparents need to submit proof of attending a Pre-Baptismal class within the last two years
2. To schedule the Baptism, bring the class attendance certificates and a copy of the child's birth certificate to the Parish office. When all paperwork has been received the Baptism will be scheduled.
3. Baptisms are celebrated the first and third Saturdays of each month.
 - 9:00 am at Holy Rosary Church in English
 - 10:00 am at Holy Rosary Church in Spanish
 - No Baptisms are conducted during Lent

Requirements for Godparents

The principal role of the Godparents is to give witness to the Catholic Faith by their words and actions. Godparents assist the parents and the person being Baptized lead a Christian life and fulfill the duties inherent in Baptism.

- There is to be only one male or one female Godparent, or one of each

The prospective Godparents must be:

1. At least 16 years of age
2. A Catholic who has been fully initiated into the Catholic Church (must be Baptized, have received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation)
3. Married in the Catholic Church, if they are married
4. Living a life of faith and attend Mass regularly
5. Designated by the one to be Baptized or the parents of the child to be Baptized and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this obligation
6. Not be bound by any Canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (cannot be married outside the Catholic Church or be living in co-habitation)
7. Not be the father or mother of the person to be Baptized
8. A Baptized person who is not a member of the Catholic Church is not to participate in the Baptism except together with a Catholic Godparent, and then only as a witness of the Baptism (Canon Law 874)

Only the parents or the legal guardian of the child can request the Sacrament of Baptism for a child.

The legal guardian of the child must be able to submit legal documentation of guardianship.