

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church

Baptism

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Mt 28:19-28

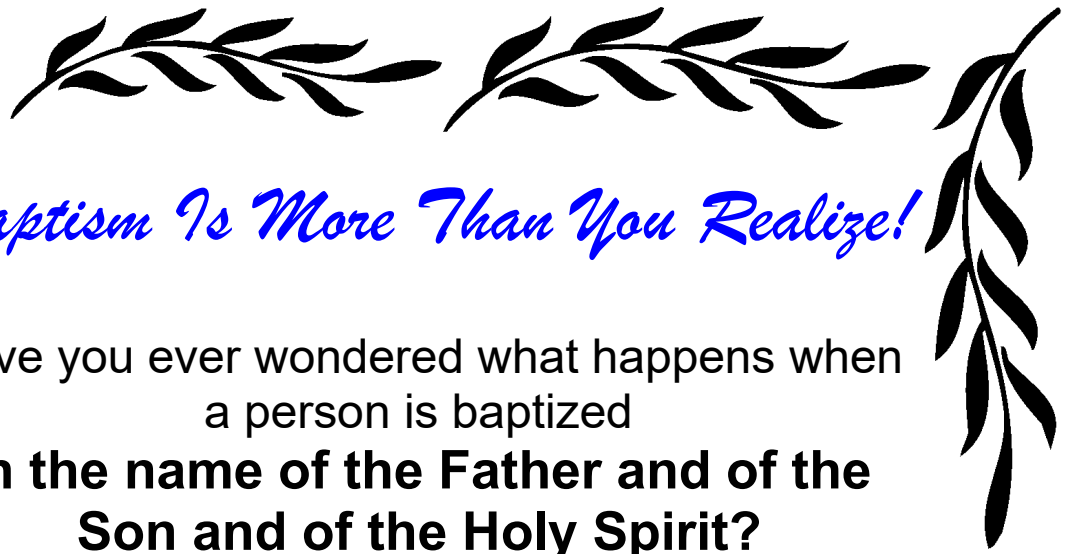
Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." – Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1213

As good parents you care for the physical and emotional needs of your child, and as Christian parents you will care for the spiritual needs of your son or daughter by presenting your child for Baptism. Baptism is the foundational sacrament of Christian life and for membership in God's Church. Jesus Christ, while on the cross, gave us Baptism from the very waters that poured from his pierced heart, and in this sacrament we see how much God truly loves us. The Sacrament of Baptism has profound and eternal effects.

When a person is baptized he or she is:

- *Made a new creation, an adopted son or daughter of God, who has become partaker of the divine nature. – CCC 1265*
- *A member of the Body of Christ, the Church. – CCC 1267*
- *Freed from the power of darkness and is brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God. – CCC 1250*
- *Able to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues; Given the power to love and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; Helped to grow in the goodness through the moral virtues. – CCC 1266*

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.



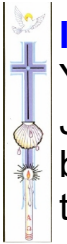
Baptism Is More Than You Realize!

Have you ever wondered what happens when
a person is baptized
**in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit?**



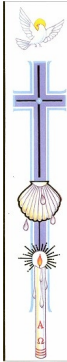
Children of the Father

You become a child of God through baptism. Adam and Eve are our first parents. When Adam and Eve sinned, it corrupted their hearts, their minds, and even their flesh. In baptism, we go from being children of Adam and Eve to becoming children of God. St. John the Evangelist wrote, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)



Into the Likeness of Jesus Christ

You are saved from sin through baptism by the power of Jesus' cross and resurrection. Jesus does this not by giving us the gift for our own use but by drawing us into himself, to become a part of his body. It is the grace of baptism that continues to transform us throughout our lives to change our hearts and become more like the one who saved us.



Filled with the Holy Spirit

You become a temple of the Holy Spirit through baptism. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove and that event was the catalyst for him to fulfill his calling as Messiah. When a person is baptized, the Holy Spirit fills them with the same spirit and gifts that dwell within Jesus. This includes the grace to grow in virtue and in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In addition to these gifts the sacrament also provides distinctive missions, anointings and graces that will assist the baptized in living a life of fullness and greatness, bringing glory to God.



Baptism at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church

Requirements

If you are looking for Baptism for your newborn child, congratulations! We are happy that God has blessed your family with new life.

Parents must be willing to bring their child up in the Catholic Faith and attend Sunday Mass weekly. Baptism is the beginning of supernatural life, but it must be nurtured throughout life.

Parents must meet with a parish staff member prior to the Baptism. You will be contacted after filling out our Baptismal Info Form. Baptism will not be scheduled until after initial contact.

If you are seeking Baptism as an adult, visit our Becoming Catholic page. We are happy to celebrate your Baptism and your initiation into supernatural life.

If your child is over the age of seven, please check out our Family Faith Formation page.

Choosing Godparents/Sponsors

- Must be good examples and sources of support for both the child and the parents and be fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.
- Must be confirmed and at least 16 years old.
- Must either be living a chaste life as a single person or be married in a valid Catholic marriage.
- Must be actively living their faith, attend Mass and confession regularly.
- Only one Catholic godparent is required.

Does it make a difference who you choose to be your children's Godparents? YES!

People often want to ask their best friends or favorite relatives to act as Godparents for their children; they usually do this as a way of honoring someone. Of course, we all would like to honor those who are dear to us, but the Baptism of your child may not be the right time to do so.

Would you ask your best friend to perform heart surgery on your child? Of course not, unless he/she were a competent heart surgeon. So if the role of Godparents is to help the parents to raise the child in the good practice of the Catholic faith, then it stands to reason that you should ask someone who shows by their own knowledge and practice that they can help someone else follow in their footsteps.

Helping a child become a good Catholic Christian in an important undertaking; it is therefore, equally important to ask someone who regularly prays with the community at Sunday Mass and, who in other ways practices his/her faith and shows commitment to Christian values.

None of this is to suggest that your dear friends or relatives are not good people. They will surely be with you to help you in many other ways. But, a teacher of mathematics may not be a good teacher of English grammar and a good friend or close relative may not be the best model of Catholic Christian practice.

If you value your faith, you will choose the best teachers to help you pass that faith onto your children.

Baptism Preparation Checklist

- Call Parish Office (906) 632-3381, ext. 1
- Submit Baptism Information Form
- Submit Birth Certificate
- Submit Godparent Forms
- Attend Baptism Preparation Class
(Held the 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM)

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church

Preparation Steps for Baptism

1. Call the parish office at (906) 632-3381, ext. 1

We will have a brief conversation to determine your family's unique needs and how best to proceed.

2. Complete the Baptism Information Form

This is what we will use to add your child's name to a baptism date. Nothing is scheduled until we receive this form. We schedule our baptisms on the first Sunday of the month at the 9:00AM Mass.

3. Submit a Copy of Your Child's Birth Certificate

This just helps us ensure we are recording everything accurately. Only a copy is needed, not an official birth certificate.

4. Complete and Submit the Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form(s)

Godparents stand as representatives of the Catholic Church during the celebration of baptism but also provide the parents with support in raising their children in the Catholic faith. This form ensures that a godparent is eligible according to the Church's law to assume this duty. You may have a minimum of one Godparent and a maximum of two (one male, one female).

Godparents must be over 16, confirmed, in a valid sacramental marriage (if married) or living a chaste single life (if not married), and be actively practicing the faith.

5. Attend a Baptism Preparation Class

When a baby is baptized, he/she is baptized based on the desire and faith of the parent(s). Because of this, we offer the opportunity to learn why we baptize, what baptism is, and what the effects and obligations are that go along with it. This preparation will inform the *parents and godparents in those areas and empower them to make the promises that are proclaimed during a baptism celebration. Classes are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Both the parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism preparation program.*

6. Celebration of Baptism!

Congratulations to you and your little one! Today begins the life-long journey of receiving and being transformed by the radical love of God through Jesus Christ. Welcome to the family

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church Baptism Information

Child's Information

Child's First Name Middle Last Name

Male Female

Date of Birth _____

City and State of Birth *(This information must match birth certificate.) If child is not born yet, leave this blank.*

Parents' Information

Father's First Name Middle Last Name

Mother's First Name Middle Maiden Name

Street Address City State Zip Code

Home Phone Cell Phone Email Address

Godparent Information

Godfather's First Name Middle Last Name

Godmother's First Name Middle Last Name

We/I are requesting the sacrament of Baptism for our child through the parish. It is our intent to raise our child as a Roman Catholic.

Father's Signature Date Mother's Signature Date

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church
377 Maple St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3381

Godparent/Sponsor Certificate

Canon 874. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.

I, _____ am a registered member of _____

I have been asked to stand as a sponsor for _____
as she/he receives the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation.

In accepting this responsibility, I affirm that:

1. I have received the three sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation)
2. I am at least 16 years of age.
3. I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by receiving Him in Holy Communion.
4. If married, I am married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
5. I believe all that the Catholic Church professes and teaches and I truly make an effort to incorporate these teachings in my daily life.
6. I attended a baptism preparation class at _____.
7. I am aware that I am assuming responsibility to be a good role model for the person I am sponsoring by my life of prayer and by my Christian example.

Seal

Godparent/Sponsor's Signature

Pastor's Signature

Date



CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

Born on the _____ day of _____, _____

In _____
City State

Child of _____

and _____

was

BAPTIZED

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

by _____

at _____
Church

_____ City State

on the _____ day of _____, _____

Godparents _____

_____ Signature Date

***There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
One God and Father of all.
Ephesians 4:5-6***