



Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby! We are happy that you have chosen to bring your child to our community for the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a sacred moment in your family's life. Infant Baptism celebrates the responsibility of the Christian community, along with the parents and godparents, to nurture and sustain the faith life of the child. It affirms the experience of God's love offered freely to all people without constraint. Especially babies!

The Baptism Preparation Program at SJCC is family-life centered. Our classes focus on the sacrament of Baptism, as well as marriage and family life. In doing so, we hope to assist parents in becoming committed to fostering their own and their children's relationship with God, the church, and this community of believers.

As with all sacraments, there is a time of preparation needed before your baby can be baptized. We look forward to seeing both parents at one required Baptism Class. First and second-time parents attend a Sunday afternoon class. The class dates are listed on the web-site. Please call Cathy Nusbaum, the Baptism Coordinator, at 443-920-9103 to register for a class, if you have not done so already.

Godparents are welcome to the Baptism Preparation Classes, but are not required to attend. The information about choosing godparents and what they need to send us is particularly important.

All parents must complete the "Baptism Register Information Form" and mail it to the parish office. We also ask that you mail a \$100.00 stipend (check made payable to St. Joseph Catholic Community) to cover the expenses related to the Baptism (books, pamphlets, mailings, secretarial and professional support, Baptism class expenses, candles, and facilities expenses).

These forms must be returned to us promptly, in order to confirm your Baptism date.

I look forward to meeting you during the preparation process. May God bless you and your precious baby.

Sincerely,

Father John Worgul
Pastoral Associate for Baptism Ministry