

BAPTISM PACKET

Greetings to you and your family!

Congratulations on the upcoming birth or delivery of your precious child! To best prepare parents for this commitment, our staff and ministry team consider it a great honor to assist you as you prepare to raise your child as a member of the Family of God. Kindly, read through this information so you will know what to expect regarding the baptism of your child.

Baptismal preparation sessions are scheduled quarterly. Please call the cluster office @ (563) - 927-4710 to pre-register for one of the upcoming preparation sessions listed on the first page of the Baptism link.

*All classes are held in St. Mary Memorial Room
Dates are subject to change*

(We recommend that you call as soon as you are aware that you are expecting so that you don't miss out on a session before the birth of your child).

Scheduling the Baptism: Baptisms in the Blessed Trinity Cluster are scheduled on the first and third weekends of the month. Please call the cluster office to reserve your child's baptismal date. Also note that there are no Baptisms during the season of Lent. Preparation classes must be completed and all appropriate documents returned to the cluster office **two weeks prior to Baptism.**

Baptism for School-Aged Children. Parents seeking baptism for children age 7 or older should direct their questions to Kathy Oberreuter, Director of Catechetical Programming, at 563-927-4710. An age-appropriate program is designed to meet the needs of older children and their parents. It is also expected that children age 7 or older are or will be enrolled in the cluster Religious Education program.

Selecting your Child's Godparents.

Choosing a godparent is exciting and difficult! "Which uncle, aunt, cousin, brother, sister or friend should I choose"? **Being a godparent is NOT an honorary title-it is a responsibility and commitment!** Choose wisely! Canon Law requires that each child seeking the Sacrament of Baptism has at least one official godparent who:

- is 16 years of age or older
- is a practicing Catholic in good standing
- has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation

Parents may choose to select one or two godparents. Christians of other faiths may serve as 'honorary witnesses' to the Baptism. Catholics who do not qualify as godparents cannot serve as witnesses.

Here are some questions parents might ask themselves when choosing Baptism Sponsors for their child:

- *Is this a person whose personal life shows the religious and moral values I want my child to learn and practice?*
- *Is this a person who will be able and willing to explain their faith experience, convictions and growth to my child?*
- *Is this a person who will be in frequent contact with my child, especially during the early years of personal and spiritual growth?*
- *Is this a person who will be comfortable, when necessary, challenging me or my child about our faith?*

What if my spouse is not Catholic? The Catholic Church hopes that non-Catholic parents will understand and respect what the Church expects from Catholic parents, and will use the resources of their own faith tradition to assist in the faith formation of children.

Pope John Paul II called the family the 'domestic church'. It is in the Christian home that the child first learns the values that are shared by the larger family of the Church. In the baptismal ritual the parents are questioned as to their readiness of passing on the faith to their children. The responsibility assumed by parents is also supported by the godparents and the whole Christian community so that the newly baptized can develop into a mature Christian adult.

Must I be a registered member of the cluster? It is ideal that you are a member of the Blessed Trinity Cluster; however, if you belong to another parish and wish to have your child baptized here, you must obtain written permission from the pastor/pastoral associate of your parish that includes verification of baptismal preparation and a sufficient reason to baptize your child in another parish.

Sacramental Fee: A donation of \$ 20.00 is generally made to the Blessed Trinity Cluster when you return the completed forms to offset preparation materials. You may also choose to make an additional donation directly to the presider at the time of your child's baptism. *(Please make checks payable to 'Blessed Trinity Cluster').*

**FOR CATHOLICS, THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IS THE FIRST STEP
IN A LIFELONG JOURNEY OF COMMITMENT AND DISCIPLESHIP.
WHETHER WE ARE BAPTIZED AS INFANTS OR ADULTS, BAPTISM IS
THE CHURCH'S WAY OF CELEBRATING AND ENACTING THE**

Baptism Checklist - all forms must be completed and returned to the cluster office 2 weeks prior to baptism

- ✓ Godparents chosen, must meet the requirements stated above and be practicing Catholics
- ✓ Registered for Baptism Preparation Session (see dates listed on page 1)
- ✓ Baptism Registration Form, Sacramental Fee returned to the Blessed Trinity Cluster(available on the Baptism home page)
- ✓ Baptism Preparation Session attended (please indicate location and date of session)
- ✓ Baptism Scheduled



“He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his Grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life”.

Titus 3 4:7