



ST. FRANCIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

15651 SW Oregon St Sherwood, OR 97140 503-625-6185 church@stfrancissherwood.org

The community of St. Francis Parish rejoices with you as you begin the process of baptizing your child into the Catholic Church. Baptism is the first of three Sacraments leading to full initiation in the Church. This journey will continue as he/she comes to the table at First Eucharist and is later anointed at Confirmation. ***Plan to inquire about baptism at least 6 months before the date you would like to have your child baptized.***

The beginning of your child's faith formation and its continued growth is dependent heavily, if not entirely, upon your own faith and the extent to which you live it. To help you reflect upon your own faith and to help you in your ongoing journey of faith with your child, the parish offers two classes prior to the celebration of the Sacrament. Classes need to have been taken in the month(s) prior to the baptism.

To begin the process, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the parish office prior to your scheduled meeting with our pastor. We have also enclosed forms for the prospective godparent(s) to complete. The godparent's role is very important and we included guidelines to use when choosing godparents.

We are glad to join you in this important step of welcoming your child into the family of The Church. Taking this step will affect his/her entire life.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the parish office at 503-625-6185.

Procedures to Prepare Your Child for Infant Baptism

- I. A prayerful reflection over the choice of godparents
- II. Baptism registration form
- III. Completion of pre-baptismal classes (parents & godparents)
- IV. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Please see the next page to read these four steps in more detail.

I. Godparents

The selection of the child's godparents is an important decision and should be made with the child's growth in faith in mind. You may choose one Godfather and/or one Godmother. Godparents accept the responsibility, along with you, of providing for the faith formation of your child in the Catholic Church. Their beliefs and lifestyle should reflect the responsibility they are accepting. Consequently, the Church requires the following of the Godfather and Godmother.

They are practicing Catholics, i.e., they attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly.

They are at least sixteen years of age.

They have received the sacrament of Confirmation. (Will need copy of confirmation certificate.)

If married, they are married in the Catholic Church.

After considering these qualities, the parents should select the godparents for their child. A non-Catholic Christian may take the place of one of the godparents and stand as a Christian witness along with the Catholic godparent.

II. Registration

Return completed baptism registration form to the parish office.

Our Baptism Coordinator will contact you about scheduling a pre-baptismal class, reviewing the godparents' form, and scheduling a date for the Sacrament of Baptism.

III. Pre-Baptismal Class

Both parents must attend the pre-baptismal class. The purpose of this class is to gain a fuller appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith. A schedule of our baptism classes can be found on the St. Francis website.

IV. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Upon completion of the pre-baptismal class and receipt of the godparents' forms, a date for the celebration will be confirmed.