

# INFANT BAPTISM

at Santa Maria



## The Desire for Baptism among parents

The Baptism of your child provides an opportunity to examine your own Christian life and spirituality. Through your desire for Baptism, you are saying you want to share your Christian Faith with your child.

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a serious commitment to raise the child within a faith community of believers and to form the child in the truths of the Christian Faith.

### **Baptism is only the beginning.**

The desire for Baptism is part of a process of initiation into the Christian life and Christian community. It is only the first step, later to be deepened by Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

The Church baptizes babies and children when assured that the Christian life and example of the parents/guardians will bolster, strengthen and bring maturity to the Christian life begun at Baptism.

## RITE of WELCOME, PREPARATION CLASS and BAPTISMAL DATES

<u>Rite of Welcome / Preparation Session</u>		<u>Baptism Date &amp; Liturgy</u>
	<b>2007</b>	
October 14th		October 21st @ 9:30a
	<b>2008</b>	
January 27th		February 3rd @ 9:30a
April 13th		April 20th @ 9:30a
July 20th		July 27th @ 9:30a

### **\* Please note -**

- If there are more than five baptisms on the scheduled date another liturgy on the same weekend will then be scheduled for the remaining baptismal families.
- These dates may change due to liturgical conflicts that may arise during the course of the year. Changes will be announced to the parish community, those who have contacted the parish office inquiring about baptism, and this handbook will be updated as well.

## BAPTISMAL TEAM

### Pastor

Msgr. Ted Kraus

### Pastoral Associate

Tony Millette 254.2426 x310

### Team Members

Al and Heidi Donner 376.1594

Lynn Garrett 254.2370

Gloria Kubitschek 253.4853

Sean Moran 299.0509

## NEEDED DOCUMENTATION

**Pastor Letter** If you are not a registered member of our faith community, a letter from your pastor is needed - stating that you have permission to have your child baptized outside of your home parish.

**Baptismal Preparation Verification** If you are unable to attend our preparation class you are asked to forward a letter/certificate from your parish stating that you did attend a Baptismal Preparation Session

**Baptismal Certificate** A recently issued baptismal certificate for each godparent indicating that s/he has been fully initiated into the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

## Baptismal Preparation Process

The preparation at Santa Maria consists of three phases:

1. A member of the Baptismal Team will contact you and receive needed baptismal information.
2. A Rite of Welcome.
3. A Pre-Baptismal Session with the parents.

Parents of infants and/or small children may enter the program.

To enter this process, please call the Parish Office at 254.2426. A member of the staff will contact a Baptismal Team Member who will contact you.

## Rite of Welcome

This rite occurs before the pre-baptismal session and before the Baptism, at a 9:30a Sunday Eucharistic liturgy. This rite brings children and their parents into the catechumenate, which is part of the process of initiation into the Christian life and community called Church.

This rite serves two purposes:

1. It is a celebration of life, the birth of a child into a Christian family, and an opportunity for the parish to celebrate the gift of new life with the child's parents and to support them with their prayers and good examples.

2. It is an opportunity for the church to raise the consciousness of the parent's responsibility for the Christian education and formation of their child, with a view to the child's eventual incorporation into the Body of Christ through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

## **The Pre-Baptismal Session**

This session is held in the evening of the same day of the scheduled Rite of Welcome. Parents and the baptismal team gather at the home of a baptismal team member for dinner and pre-baptismal session. Parents are informed of the time and place by a member of the baptismal team. It is recommended that both parents attend.

The purpose of the session is to give parents an opportunity to :

1. Meet and share with other parents;
2. Understand the communal aspect of Baptism;
3. Explain the theology of Baptism;
4. Deepen an awareness that the Baptism of their child is religious-faith experience;
5. Explore some ways of giving religious formation to a child after the celebration of Baptism.

## **Who may be a godparent?**

The church requires that each child to be baptized have at least one Catholic godparent.

A godparent is a model or an example of Christian life to a young child as the child grows into adulthood. The role of a godparent involves the sharing of the faith and the development of a close friendship with the child.

The following are requirements for Catholic godparents:

1. They must have received the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church, as verified by a recent Baptismal Certificate.

2. They must be minimally 16 years to fulfill their responsibilities as a godparent.
3. Baptized Christians of other denomination do not serve as godparents. They may serve, however, as a Christian Witness.

## **When are Baptisms celebrated?**

At Santa Maria, the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated communally at one of our weekend liturgies with the exception of Lent. Since Lent is a preparation time for Initiation, Baptisms are not celebrated between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday.

## **Baptism of Children who are not infants**

School age children need to enroll a special process called Christian Initiation of Children. For more information on this process, please call a member of the parish pastoral staff at 254.2426.

## **Baptismal Follow Up**

After sharing in the Sacrament of Baptism the formation of your child continues by your teaching, witness and the example of the community of Santa Maria.

To assist you, the parish will send you a series of handouts. These are designed to accompany the parents, godparents and grandparents from the anticipation of a birth or adoption, through baptism and into the child's first years.

## **Baptismal Stipend**

It is customary to pay a stipend of \$100.– to the Church of Santa Maria which covers the Baptismal preparation process and liturgy.