



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

1912 Eudora Street ~ Denver, CO 80220

Phone: (303) 355-7361 Fax: (303) 355-0894

www.blessedsacrament.net

Dear Parents,

It is a wonderful thing that you bring your child to receive the new life of Jesus Christ in Baptism and thus also enter into His Body, the Church. Through this incredible sacrament, your child will be immersed into the saving death and Resurrection of Jesus, freed from the effects of original sin, become a beloved son/daughter of our Father in heaven, and will begin following Jesus for life through the power of the Holy Spirit. And, your child is only an infant or toddler right now! But, that of course is why this grace will come like a new little seed of life to grow and mature over the years.

We are so grateful that you are open to this sacrament. Obviously, you also take on a huge responsibility. You will be not only parents, but also mentors to your child to teach him/her in word and example how to follow Jesus in everything through the Catholic Church that Jesus founded (Mt. 16:13-19). We realize of course that parents come from a wide variety of backgrounds in their faith formation. Now matter where you are, even if you have less than ideal circumstances, we want to work with you. How much Jesus wants to accomplish in and through your son/daughter, and how much he wants to use you to do this!

Please read all of the information contained in this packet. It goes over a number details that both we and parents find helpful to cover. But, please don't be too burdened in all of the details. I humbly ask you to begin praying right now that you and your child will enter much more deeply into the transforming power of the grace of Jesus through Baptism. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your specific situation.

May God the Father bless you and begin sending you abundant grace in preparation for the baptism of your child.

Rev. Chris Hellstrom
Pastor



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1. Begin preparation early.

If possible, start the Baptism process as soon as you know you are pregnant. Most families find it easier and this allows the child to benefit from Baptism within the first few weeks after birth.

2. Church Attendance. Register and stay active.

Baptism is the gift of new life, the eternal life of the risen Christ. This gift is a sacrament, an encounter with Christ himself. Baptism is a moment when Christ comes to us and acts within us and among us. In this encounter, we are transformed. We seek to live out our new lives as part of the family of God, the Catholic Faith Community. Therefore, we ask that your family be fully active and participate as a part of our community for a minimum of 6 months prior to Baptism. Full and active participation in the parish means your family:

- Has completed a registration form at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church;
- Is deemed by the pastor as supportive of the parish by frequenting the sacraments;
- Begins to enter into a daily experience that builds and deepens your relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Eucharist is at the heart of Catholic belief. Our regular participation in the Eucharist is the greatest way we can experience union with Jesus but it is also a sign of our commitment to what we believe. Several times within the Rite of Baptism you reaffirm your own faith, express your desire that your child know and live the values of the Church, and accept the responsibility of raising your child in the *practice* of the faith. If this is your intention, now is a good time to commit yourself to your personal faith. For some this may mean a deepening of your interior life. For others it may mean more regular weekly participation in Sunday Mass, completing sacraments of initiation, or for others having a marriage convalidated.

Some parents hesitate to request a Baptism because they do not regularly attend services or support Blessed Sacrament. If this is you, you may want to evaluate the reasons you are seeking Baptism for your child. Is it an expectation within the family? Is it tradition? If you sense a disparity between how you have lived in the past or present and what the Church believes leading to distancing yourself from an active Church life, we want to work with you to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Whatever your current attendance habits are, if you now want to inspire your child to lead a Christian life, your parish wants to help. The arrival of your child signifies a new beginning your life; it can also mark a new beginning of your life with the church.

3. Complete the Pre-Baptismal Information Form.

Please fill out the forms completely and with total honesty. We understand that each family situation is unique, and we are here to assist not to pass judgment. Blessed Sacrament parish is looking for a relationship. If you have not made that connection in a while, give us a chance. If you have tried and things are not going your way, tell us how we can work it out. We want to be a good companion and steady friend in your family's journey towards a deeper relationship with our Lord. Return the forms to the parish office at the address above.



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4. Choosing Godparents.

Godparents play a significant role on the day of Baptism and well into the future. Their role is to support the growth of the Catholic faith in your child. In deciding on a godparent or godparents there is everything to suggest that it is a serious responsibility to choose well; it is a decision worth much thought, prayer, and discussion. When you have decided, it is appropriate that you tell the godparent-to-be what led you to your decision. It is a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility. The church has some preconditions about godparents as well:

- You must designate them, and they must be willing to help your child lead a Catholic Christian life in harmony with baptism and fulfill the obligations connected with it;
- They must be at least sixteen years of age;
- They must be Catholics who are Baptized and Confirmed, and have received First Communion;
- They must lead a life “in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken” (e.g. attending Mass regularly, making use of the sacrament of Reconciliation);
- They must not be bound by any imposed or declared penalty under church law (e.g. marriage that is not valid, divorced and remarried, or living a life of habitual sin);
- They must be someone besides the child’s parents; and
- Only one Catholic Godparent is required, though two are encouraged; one man and one woman.

All Godparents need to sign the *Role of Godparent Form*, signing that they are practicing Catholics who are prepared to fulfill their role. Please have the Pastor of the parish where they are a member sign and affirm this information as well. A Christian witness (a person baptized in another Christian faith tradition) may also serve as additional support to you and your child. A Christian witness is not required to sign the form.

5. Attend the Baptismal Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents (held on the third Saturday of each month from 9-10:30a.m. except during Lent).

After we have received your completed forms, you will be contacted by a team member to set the date to attend *Baptismal Preparation Class*. Both parents are required by the Archdiocese to attend. Godparents are also invited to attend at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish. Non-Catholic witnesses are invited to attend class at Blessed Sacrament, but are not required. You will hear about the importance of Baptism and learn more about what your parish can do to help support you as good parents and your child as a good Christian.

6. Schedule the Date of the Baptism.

We will not schedule Baptisms in advance of completing the *Pre-Baptismal Information Form* and attending the *Baptismal Preparation Class*. Do not schedule airfare or make family arrangements until Baptism date is confirmed with the Director of Religious Education and all of the sacramental preparation is complete. No Baptisms will be scheduled on the day that the class is completed. Baptisms are scheduled at or apart from Mass on any day except, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (during the day). We will let you know which options are available to you. If for some reason the Baptism is to take place at a church other than Blessed Sacrament, you may request a letter from our parish about your membership and participation.



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Child's Name: _____
First, Middle, Last

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____
City State

If expecting, Baby's due date: _____

Was the child adopted? _____ If so is the Adoption final? _____

Father's Name: _____ **Religion:** _____
First Middle Last

Mother's Name: _____ **Religion:** _____
First Middle Last

Mother's Maiden name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Phone: _____
(Home) (Cell)

Email: _____

Date that we became registered members of Blessed Sacrament _____

Godparent information: If you are uncertain of the Godparent information, submit this form anyway and update at a later time.

Godfather's Name: _____
First Middle Last

The Godfather is 16 years or older, and received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion in the Catholic Church? _____

Godfather is a practicing Catholic? _____

If not, in what Christian denomination is he a practicing member? _____

Godmother's Name: _____
First Middle Last

The Godmother is 16 years or older, and received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion in the Catholic Church? _____

Godmother is a practicing Catholic? _____

If not, in what Christian denomination is she a practicing member? _____



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Parents are: (Check one or more)

_____ Single (never been married)

_____ Engaged; Scheduled date and location of Wedding: _____

_____ Full name of fiancé(e)

_____ Religion of fiancé(e)

Is this your first marriage? _____ Yes

_____ No, I have been married before.

Is this your fiancé(e)'s first marriage? _____ Yes

_____ No, My fiancé(e) has been married before.

_____ Married

Is this your first marriage? _____ Yes

_____ No, I have been married before.

Is this your spouse's first marriage? _____ Yes

_____ No, my spouse has been married before.

Date of Marriage _____

Place and denomination of Marriage _____

_____ Separated; I am married, but separated from my spouse since _____.

_____ Divorced; I am divorced since _____ and never remarried.

_____ Divorced; I have obtained an annulment and am free to remarry in the Church.

_____ Widowed, I am a widow/widower. My spouse died on _____.

Faith Practice of the Parent(s):

(Check all appropriate boxes)

MOTHER

FATHER

Baptized Catholic _____

First Eucharist _____

Confirmed _____

Mass Attendance:

Weekly _____

Monthly (once a month) _____

Seldom (Holidays) _____

Never _____

Other Children living with Parents:

Name _____ Age _____ Baptized _____ Eucharist _____ Confirmed _____

Details for out of Parish Baptism*:

_____ Parish

_____ Address

_____ City, State

_____ Zip

_____ Date

***Letters will be provided for out of parish Baptisms for active members of 6 months or more.**



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THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You assist the parents greatly by bringing Jesus and all he taught to your Godchild and you represent the Catholic Faith Community. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic Christian life and education. This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit or a card. As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on Catholic doctrine and values to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events – Christmas, Easter, personal growth events, graduation, first job, and engagement.
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly, First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community, and Reconciliation.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- **And most importantly**, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in parish life and liturgy, particularly weekly Sunday Mass.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith. Godparents must meet Canon Law requirements and Diocesan Guidelines which include:

1. be not less than sixteen years of age;
2. be a Catholic who has been Baptized, Confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who is living a sacramental life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken (e.g. attending Mass regularly, making use of the sacrament of Reconciliation);
3. not labour under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared (i.e. a marriage that is not validated in the Catholic Church, or living a life of habitual sin)
4. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized. **Canon 874**

GODPARENT'S COMMITMENT

I understand my commitment to the above and accept the responsibility of being a godparent for:

Name of Child

Signature of Godparent

Date of commitment

I HEREBY TESTIFY that _____ is a registered member of
Print Name of Godparent

_____ and affirm that he/she fulfills all
Name of (Godparent's) Parish

the requirements to serve in the ministry of godparent including attending the baptism class.

Signature of (godparent's) Pastor

Date

(Parish Seal on this page is required.)