



HOLY NAME OF JESUS

# BAPTISM

## Introduction

The Sacrament of Baptism opens the door to a new life in Jesus Christ...a life that goes beyond our death and into the life of heaven after our death. Baptism is the Sacrament of salvation: an encounter with God that cleanses us from sin and makes us true children of God, sharing in his very own divine life. This great gift is offered to all who believe and to the children of families of faith. Since her earliest days, the Church has baptized adults and children because it is the only ordinary way God has revealed that we may receive the grace of salvation through this sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At Holy Name of Jesus, it is a joy and honor to welcome new members into our church family through the Sacrament of Baptism. This guide was created to walk you through the steps of preparing your child to receive this wonderful Sacrament. In this guide you will find our Baptism preparation gathering dates, available dates for scheduling a Baptism, a Baptism checklist, frequently asked questions and where to find additional resources on Baptism.



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# BAPTISM PREPARATION GATHERINGS AND BAPTISM DATES

All parents who intend to baptize their child at Holy Name of Jesus are required to attend a preparation gathering prior to the Baptism of their child (if you have attended a preparation gathering or class in the last five years at HNOJ or another Catholic parish, you do not need to attend). These gatherings provide an opportunity to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism and to connect with others from HNOJ. Babies are welcome to attend the Baptism prep gathering with their parents.

There is a space to register for a Baptism preparation gathering in the online Baptism registration form or feel free to call the Parish Office to sign-up.

Baptism is the first of the Initiation Sacraments of the Church and has the most symbols associated with it (name, cross, white garment, candle, chrism, water, Litany of the Saints, Word of God, Creed, etc.). It has been the tradition of the Church to celebrate Baptisms on Sunday, thus we schedule Baptisms on weekends after Mass. Baptisms will be done in small groups following the 10:30 a.m. Mass (Baptism will start around noon). Dates are filled on a first come first serve basis.

Baptisms will not be performed on or during: Advent, Lent, Easter Sunday, Pentecost or Divine Mercy Sunday.

## Baptism Prep Gathering

6:30-7:45 P.M.

*Meeting room will be determined based on registration numbers.*

To see the currently scheduled Baptism preparation gatherings and register for a session see our Baptism information page at form at [hnoj.org/baptism](http://hnoj.org/baptism).

## Baptism Dates

BAPTISMS TAKE PLACE ON A FEW SUNDAYS EACH MONTH AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. MASS (AT NOON).

For our current available Baptism dates please see our online registration form at: [hnoj.org/baptism](http://hnoj.org/baptism).

*Dates and times are given on a first come, first serve basis.*

"Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: 'Therefore . . . we are members one of another.' (Eph 4:25) Baptism incorporates us into the Church."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - 1267



## Baptism Checklist

- ☐ **Attend a Baptism Preparation Gathering**
  - See gathering dates at [hnoj.org/baptism](http://hnoj.org/baptism).
  - If you have attended a Baptism preparation gathering at HNOJ or another Catholic parish in the last five years, you do not need to attend another. If you would like to come, you are more than welcome!
- ☐ **Select godparents**
  - See page #4 for frequently asked questions regarding godparents.
- ☐ **Select a Baptism date**
  - Baptisms are done in small groups following the 10:30 a.m. Mass (around noon). For our current available Baptism dates please see our online registration form at [hnoj.org/baptism](http://hnoj.org/baptism).
- ☐ **Complete the "Baptism Registration" form online**
  - Please visit [hnoj.org/baptism](http://hnoj.org/baptism) and scroll to the bottom of the page to find our Baptism registration form.
- ☐ **Upload or send Claudia Rabaey a scanned copy or photo of your child's birth certificate**
  - You are able to upload your child's birth certificate in the registration form. If you do not have the birth certificate at that time feel free to email it to Claudia Rabaey at a later date.

"The soul is regenerated in the sacred waters of baptism and thus becomes God's child."

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



Contact:  
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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **A what age can I have my child baptized?**

The Church recommends that children be baptized as newborns or infants. However, it is never too late to baptize your children. The process for a child to be baptized is the same from newborn through age six. Those who have reached age seven and have not yet been baptized are considered “adults” with respect to the reception of Sacraments. This is because at age seven they are able to take personal responsibility for their sins and are able to make a profession of faith on their own. A special preparation process is provided for them.

### **If I have already attended a Baptism preparation class for an older child, do I have to attend again?**

If you have attended a Baptism preparation class in the last five years at Holy Name of Jesus or another Catholic parish for an older child you do not need to attend another. If you would like a refresh, you are welcome to join us.

## Godparent Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I be my child's godparent?**

No, according to the Code of Canon Law: "To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor [for Baptism], a person must . . . not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized" (CIC 874).

### **What is the role of a godparent?**

“Together with the parents presents an infant for Baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with Baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations” of this new life. (Code of Canon Law, 872).

### **Does my child's godparent have to be Catholic?**

Yes, a godparent must be a Catholic. A baptized person who is not Catholic can serve as a “Christian witness” to the Baptism along with at least one Catholic godparent. It is not permissible to have only a witness and not a godparent.

### **Godparent requirements**

- Must be Catholic (confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist)
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Must have at least one practicing Catholic - male or female. No more than two godparents - one male, one female.