

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
Together in Baptism
2018



Rev. Anthony Huong Le
Deacon Albert Dizon Deacon David Holland

Please call office to schedule your appointment
(925) 228-2230
Office Email: stcathmtz@yahoo.com



Dear Parents,

We welcome you to St. Catherine of Siena Parish Pre-Baptismal program. The Lord has blessed you and our Parish Community with a beautiful gift – your child – the visible sign of your love for each other. You have played a very important part in God’s plan of creation, and with Him have given life to a new member of His family. What more beautiful way can we welcome your child into God’s family than through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Throughout the history of our Church, preparation for Baptism has extended from no preparation at all to years of instruction for Catechumens. The Second Vatican Council separated the Rite of Baptism into two different rites; one for adults and one for children. Consequently, the Rite for Children calls for preparation on the part of the parent for the Baptism of their child.

Through the Pre-Baptism Program here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, we hope to deepen your understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism and make you ever more aware of the importance this sacrament plays in your life as a family of God. We also will begin to form a basic Christian community with one another and develop a sense of celebration about your child’s Baptism.

As parents, we prepare long and well for the arrival of our baby. Now, we need to prepare ourselves to help our children for the life they will lead as a child of God – the lifetime commitment of a Catholic Christian. We look forward to sharing with you in this important and joyful time of preparation.

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM

You should start preparing for your child's baptism about two months before the desired month of Baptism. These are the steps that you should follow:

STEP 1:

Review this baptismal instruction booklet and select a date. Once you choose a date, call for an appointment. Come into the Parish Office *with your child's original birth certificate, Godparents confirmation certificates, a piece of identification for yourself and church donation.* **We will fill out the form** to register your child for the Baptism and the Baptism Preparation Class.

STEP 2:

Attend the Baptismal Preparation Class. In this session, the Deacon/Baptism Catechist, the parents/legal guardians, and the Godparents pray and discuss topics relating to the Sacrament of Baptism, parenting and the Christian Community. We have a separate session for Spanish speaking parents. These sessions are usually offered on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 PM. This **class is Mandatory for both parents and Godparents**, unless one has attended a Baptism Class within three years, they are able to waive this step as long as a letter of proof is provided.

STEP 3:

Participate in the Rite of Welcoming (Blessing). This is held at a pre-scheduled weekend Liturgy (Saturday or Sunday), usually on the first weekend following the Baptism Preparation Class. This is a brief ceremony in which the children being baptized later that month are welcomed into the larger Parish Community. Refer to the schedule under "Parish Blessing" to determine what Mass applies to you.

STEP 4:

Celebration of Baptism. St. Catherine of Siena celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism for children under the age of seven twice a month. See the schedule for the current year for more information

GENERAL INFORMATION

Clothing

Children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism need not be dressed in white, however if not, they should have a white garment to be placed on them during the ceremony. A white shirt or sweater is sufficient.

Pictures

Pictures are not allowed during the ceremony so that the Rite itself will not be disturbed. Pictures may be taken before and after the ceremony. The priest or deacons of our parish are happy to take pictures with you and help in any way they can to make this event a real celebration. The ceremony may be videotaped from a stationary position, as long as no special lights are used.

Offering

On the baptismal assigned dates listed in this pamphlet a donation to the Parish – usually \$75.00 is submitted at the time of registration. Checks are made payable to the St. Catherine Parish, not to the priest or deacon performing the Baptism.

Number of People

There is no limit to the number of people you may invite to your child's Baptism. You are encouraged to invite relatives and friends to share your joy and welcome your child into our Christian Community.

Godparents Requirements

You are only required to have one godparent for your child's Baptism. However, it is customary to have two (one male and one female). In order to be a Godparent, an individual must be 16 years of age or older, Baptized and Confirmed, and be an active, practicing Catholic. Godparents must provide a Certificate of Confirmation to the Parish Office at the time of registration. If you only have one "Confirmed Catholic" as a Godparent, another individual can be there as a "Witness" – however, their name will not be recorded in the church records or on the Baptism Certificate. If you select Godparents who live a great distance away, they do not have to be present at the Baptism. You may have a **Catholic proxy** fill in for the official Godparents. More

“Godparents” may be included in the ceremony, **but only two Confirmed** will be officially placed in the **Church’s Baptismal Register** as Godparents. Both Parents and Godparents must attend the Baptismal Preparation Class. Godparents who are unable to attend our Baptism Preparation Class due to distance, must provide a letter verifying their attendance of a Baptismal Preparation Class from their Parish.

Special Circumstances

If you do not presently live in Martinez and wish to have your child baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, you must have a letter from the priest of the Parish where you live, giving permission for this baptism to take place in Martinez. If you wish to have a priest from another Parish perform your Baptism at our parish, they must provide a **“Letter of Good Standing”** from their Diocese or Superior to our Parish Office **prior to the Baptism Preparation Class**. Their fee is separate from the donation to the church.

Baptismal Certificate

A Baptismal Certificate will be given on the day of Baptism or mailed to you within two weeks of your child’s Baptism. This will be needed when they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

Baptism during Sunday Liturgy

If, due to circumstances, your child is baptized during the Spanish Sunday Liturgy, the form of baptism is by immersion only.

BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River by John; at first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings. The scene is familiar; Jesus is standing waist-high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days; as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way

today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptistery art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition or that "infusion", the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!

-James Field, @Copyright, J.S. Paluch

Parish Membership

Most Catholic Parishes are formed primarily of the people who live within geographic boundaries established by the diocese. So, whether or not you know it, you belong to a parish. Parishes are structured this way to make sure everyone has a home. A church serves a neighborhood just as grocery stores, schools, banks attempt to do. That makes the bond between church and neighborhood very strong. Your church can help you meet your neighbors and share your life with them. Church is built on real human relationships, the face-to-face contact that makes friendships grow.

*Some of the parents who apply for the baptism of their children are already deeply involved in the parish communities. Others are not. Many couples who come for baptism have not spent much time at church since they prepared for their wedding. Baptism is one of those moments when families and churches feel the attraction for each other. **It is an opportunity for everyone to get reacquainted and to grow.***

*So if you are looking for a baptism in the way you might look for a good hairdresser, sporting goods store, restaurant, or golf course, you may be in for a surprise. The church is looking for something more. The church 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. Your parish will want to be a good companion to you.*

Some young families are transient. Maybe you have not yet settled in the place you expect to call "home". Even so, where you live now is your home, and the contact with your parish church is invaluable.

Consequently, it is important to **register as a member** of the church. Let your parish know who you are. Remember, a good disciple does not just receive from a church, but gives as well. In bringing your child to this church for baptism, you are asking for the whole package. Not just a special ceremony, but a community of worship, commitment, life and service. It is a wonderful world that is yours to share with a wonderful child.

Thank you for welcoming this child into your home.

Thank you for welcoming Christ into your child.

May God give you happiness in your ministry as a parent.
May you see the hope of eternal life shine in the eyes of your child!

Selections:™ Your Child Baptism™ Paul Turner

Please call 228-2230 for an appointment

Important items needed to bring in order to register:

- 1) Bring the original **Birth Certificate** for your Child and **picture ID** of yourself to the Parish Office as soon as possible **in order to register** your child for Baptism along with names and correct spellings of Godparent's names.
- 2) Obtain and **bring a copy** of one/both of the **Godparent's Certificate of Confirmation** to the Parish Office.
- 3) Bring donation of \$75 payable to St. Catherine Parish.
- 4) Register for Baptism Preparation **Class** (see below)
- 5) Attend Parish Blessing as per Baptism Schedule.
- 6) All the above requested paperwork must be provided to the **Parish Office three weeks prior** to the Baptism Preparation Class or the Baptism will not take place.

SCHEDULE FOR INFANT BAPTISM IN 2018

Baptismal Class begins at 7 PM (Parish Center) “No children please”

February 14th through April 1st 2018

Baptisms are suspended during Lent as we prepare to Celebrate God's gift of Life in the Risen Lord at Easter

Godparenting classes are held on the same dates.

Pre-registration required. Please fill out form located on our website

Registration form must be submitted upon registration for class.

Jan 3 English Class

Jan 4 Spanish Class

Jan 6th Parish Blessing at 4:30 PM

Jan 14 Baptism *

Jan 21 Baptism – Bilingual (Spanish)

* Older Children's Baptism (Ages 5+) 3PM

Jan 31 English Class

Feb 1 Spanish Class

Feb 4th Parish Blessing 8:30 AM

Feb 11 Baptism - Bilingual (Spanish)

ASH WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 14

April 4 English Class

April 5 Spanish Class

April 8th Parish Blessing 10:30 AM

April 15 Baptism

April 22 Baptism -Bilingual (Spanish)

May 2 English Class

May 3 Spanish Class

May 12th Parish Blessing 4:30 AM

May 13 Baptism

May 20 Baptism - Bilingual (Spanish)

June 6 English Class

June 7 Spanish Class

June 10th Parish Blessing at 10:30 PM

June 17 Baptism

June 24 Baptism - Bilingual (Spanish)

July 11 English Class

July 12 Spanish Class

July 15th Parish Blessing at 8:30 AM

July 22 Baptism

July 29 Baptism - Bilingual(Spanish)

Aug 1 English Class

Aug 2 Spanish Class

Aug 5th Parish Blessing at 10:30 AM

Aug 12 Baptism

Aug 19 Baptism -Bilingual (Spanish)

Sept 5 English Class

Sept 6 Spanish Class

Sept 8th Parish Blessing at 4:30 PM

Sept 16 Baptism

Sept 23 Baptism - Bilingual (Spanish)

Oct 3 English Class

Oct 4 Spanish Class

Oct 7th Parish Blessing at 8:30 AM

Oct 14 Baptism

Oct 21 Baptism -Bilingual (Spanish)

Nov 7 English Class

Nov 8 Spanish Class

Nov 11th Parish Blessing at 10:30 AM

Nov 18 Baptism

Nov 25 Baptism - Bilingual (Spanish)

Dec 5 English Class

Dec 6 Spanish Class

Dec 8th Parish Blessing at 4:30 PM

Dec 16 Baptism – Bilingual (Spanish)