

BEFORE BAPTISM

SUNDAY MASS means everything for a Catholic, and it is an act that identifies us as Catholics. There are many benefits for all who attend Sunday Mass regularly. Before you even decide to have your child baptized please join us for **SUNDAY MASS**, choose from Mass on Saturday at 5:00 pm, or Sunday 9:00 am, or 11:00 am.

After you register your child and choose the date for Baptism, we will be expecting you on Sunday in church. There will be **two preparation meetings**. We will schedule the dates with you at the registration.

Each meeting will be after 11:00 am Mass on Sunday and will last 20-30 mins. After the Mass is finished, wait in the front pews for the facilitator to show you the way. Godparents are also invited to our Sunday Mass and the preparation meetings.

Before inquiring about Baptism for your child you may want to answer these important questions. ***Why do I wish to have my child baptized? Is the church, Sunday Mass important for me? How will I ensure my child's growth in the faith, attending church, learning about the faith?***

OUTLINE OF THE CELEBRATION

The Sacrament of Baptism is available at St. Mary's on **designated Sundays**. Please ask about the date when you enquire. On the day of Baptism, you will be invited to **Sunday Holy Mass at 11:00 am**. There will be **seats marked** for you and the godparents **in the front of the**

The Liturgy of Baptism is celebrated along with the liturgy of Sunday Mass and includes: *reception of the child, anointing and prayer of exorcism, profession of faith, pouring of water - the actual moment of being baptized, anointing with the oil of the Holy Chrism, putting on the white garment and receiving the paschal candle.*

church. *Please arrive in adequate time before the Mass to find your seats and to prepare for the liturgy.*

The presiding priest decides at his discretion the order of particular parts of the liturgy. Some parts of the liturgy may take place after the Mass is finished. In this case you will have a short break to take care of your child. Everything will be announced by the priest.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

at St. Mary's Brantford

www.marybrantford.com

WELCOME IN

The pastoral staff and people of St. Mary's **WARMLY WELCOME** you as you prepare for your child's baptism. If you are already a parishioner, we look forward to seeing you on Sunday at Mass, if you are not registered yet we hope to see you sign-up soon. The parish life offers much more than Sunday Mass. There are other activities

→ When you come to church on Sunday make sure to approach the priest who usually stands at the door after the Mass greeting parishioners.

→ For your convenience please know that there is a washroom and a private change area in the room located to the left from the altar. If your child is giving you a hard time take a break and use the area by the main doors, it is sound proof. There is also a washroom there.

that you and your child will benefit from. We can also recommend to you many Catholic schools in our area.

We are an open and welcoming, diverse Catholic Community. Please make sure to invite your family and friends despite their faith or religion to our Sunday Mass liturgy. All non-Catholic guests are welcome to approach the priest or a minister with the Holy Communion procession and to ask for a blessing, if they wish. The crossed-on chest hands are a sign of asking for the blessing.

REGISTRATION

The process of registration usually includes:

1. **Initial Interview** either by telephone or in person, the parish minister will provide the basic information for you.
2. Submit **REGISTRATION FORM**, signed by both parents or legal guardian(s). *In some instances, we may ask to see a document proving your legal right to act on behalf of the child.*
3. **Schedule** the DATE for BAPTISM and PREPARATION MEETINGS.
4. **Attend** the meetings (*both parents and godparents*)

WHAT IS BAPTISM

Baptism is a SACRAMENT, an **action** of Jesus Christ in his Church. *A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace, instituted by Jesus.* Grace is given to the soul of the person who receives the sacrament.

The priest will ask you at some point of the Baptism:

“What do you ask of the Church for this child?”

Your will answer: For Baptism

In this sacrament, **Jesus Christ**

→ forgives original sin and opens the gates of heaven for us → welcomes us into his Church → makes us the sons and daughters of God

Baptism is more than

→ a blessing. → a name-giving ritual. → something we do to the child so that God will bless the child. He already loves the child. → something we do to appease the grandparents. → something we do to register a child to a Catholic school

What happens at a Baptism? The Church rejoices because we have welcomed a new member and because we have once again celebrated the mysteries of God's love for us and of our salvation.

Baptism is a new birth, new life, that has no end like love has no end too!

The ceremony of Baptism assumes a well-founded hope that you will bring your child up in the practice of the Catholic Faith. This means:

- you teach your child to pray
- you teach your child to lead a good Christian life
- you come to Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation
- you teach your child the Catholic tradition and faith

HOW TO CHOOSE GODPARENTS?

It is the responsibility of the parents to select godparents. One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient, but there may be two.

(There is only a space for two names in the register.)

Godparents are chosen by the parents according to the following requirements. Godparent needs to:

- a. be mature enough to accept this responsibility; be not less than sixteen years of age - *unless the parish priest considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;*
- a. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Holy Communion, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
- c. not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared; *(ask for explanation, if you don't understand)*
- d. not to be either the father or mother of the person being baptized
- e. a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted as a witness, but not in place of the Catholic godparent(s). The witnesses' name may be registered on the certificate but not in the baptismal register.

WHITE GARMENT

We ask to dress your child in white if possible. We will provide a baptismal candle.

OFFERTORY GIFTS

We would like a family of newly baptized child/children to carry the offertory gifts to the altar. Please speak to the preparation facilitator if you are willing to do this. They will gladly explain to you all the details.

STIPENDS

There are no fees for Baptism. However, if a family wishes to make a free-will offering to the priest or to the parish, they may do so.