



Sacred Heart of Jesus  
209 Second Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

### **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is a sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.” (Catechism 1213) Through Baptism, we become part of the community of God's people, spanning all times and places, called to holy lives of prayer and service.

At Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, the sacrament of Baptism is celebrated communally, in the context of the Sunday Eucharist. It is celebrated during Mass to highlight the connection between Baptism and Eucharist, between the parish community and its newest member as well as his/her family.

### **BAPTISM OF YOUNG CHILDREN (0-6 years)**

We celebrate baptisms of young children monthly on the third Sunday of even-numbered months at either our 9:00am or at 11:00am Mass.

Parents/guardians are asked to participate in a Baptism preparation class to update their understanding of baptism, the important responsibilities of Christian parenting, and to learn more about the many ways our parish support families. The class takes place on the first Thursday of even-numbered months. In class, we will, in a prayerful setting, review the practical details for the actual celebration.

Parents are encouraged to contact the parish while still awaiting the birth of their child.

### **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Who is eligible?**

If you live within the parish boundaries (roughly Mercer to Pike, Western to Boren Avenue) and have made Sacred Heart of Jesus your home parish by registering either online or in person at the parish office, you are welcome to have your child baptized

here. Or if you are personally connected with a registered parishioner (i.e., grandparents).

If you live outside the area, or are a member of another parish, a letter must be received from your home parish granting permission for the Baptism and verifying that you as parents, have participated in the parish's Baptism preparation class.

### **Who can be a godparent?**

Church law requires that there is at least one godparent for the child. Godparents need to be active, practicing, and confirmed Catholics who are at least 16 years old. Godparents need to submit written proof of registration and attendance of the baptism preparation class from their parish.

### **Can a non-Catholic be a godparent?**

No, only a Catholic can be a godparent because they are asked to promise to help support raising the child in the Catholic faith. A non-Catholic Christian can witness the baptism as long as there is one Catholic godparent. A non-baptized person cannot be a godparent or witness.

### **What if the godparents cannot come to the actual celebration?**

You can have a proxy stand in for the godparent(s). Please let our office know so we can record the name of the proxy on the certificate.

### **Can I schedule a private Baptism?**

No, unless there is an exceptional pastoral circumstance. Personal occasions such as birthdays or family visits are not considered a pastoral exception. Baptism celebrates the initiation of the child into the parish community; thus, it is very important that the community is present at the time of the celebration.

## **GODPARENTS**

If you are a godparent for a child being baptized at Sacred Heart of Jesus, the child's parents will be in contact with you about the requirements

If you are a godparent for a child being baptized at another parish, be sure to check with that church as to the required documentation for some aspect of your faith life. This tends to vary from parish to parish and from diocese to diocese.

Catholic godparents should be active Catholics, Confirmed, and updated on the sacraments of Baptism. The parish where you were baptized has the full record of your sacramental life. Contact them for a copy of your sacramental records. If you were baptized at Sacred Heart, contact our office at 206-284-4680.

If you are an active registered member of Sacred Heart, you will be in our system (you get mailings from us). If you have never gotten around to register but are active in the

parish, you can register online (<https://sacredheartseattle.org/become-a-parishioner>) or stop by the parish office during normal business hours to fill out a form.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES**

Parents and godparents are required to take the Baptism preparation class. If the class is taken at Sacred Heart, there are required readings before the class. The booklets, which containing these readings, can be purchased at the parish office (Mondays through Fridays, 9:00am to 4:30pm). The costs (payable in cash or check only) are: \$10 (parents); \$5 (per Godparent).

Once you have filled out the online Baptism information form (<https://sacredheartseattle.org/baptism>) and you have purchased the booklets, you are considered registered for the class.

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