

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

7809 46th Way North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

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Baptism Information

Dear Parent,

Thanks so much for your interest in having your child baptized here at Sacred Heart! Baptism is the first of the Church's sacraments. By being baptized, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ. The Apostle Paul expressed it this way, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body (1 Cor. 12:12-13a). So, having your child baptized is amazingly important!

Baptism can also be a meaningful experience for you as parents or guardians – something more than just a gathering of family members. We hope that the preparation class you attend and the few additional things that need to be done will help make the baptism of your child a significant moment in their life and yours.

What follows are the instructions you'll need to arrange the baptism. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to the celebration of this sacrament with you.

In Christ,

Fr. Kevin

Necessary forms and paperwork

1. Please fill in the Baptism Registration Form that is attached. This gives us the information we need to record the sacrament in the parish records. If you are not already registered here at Sacred Heart, and would like to do so, you can complete the second half of the form. We'll happily welcome you to our parish family!
2. If one of the child's parents / guardians is not Catholic, we need to have their permission to baptize the child. Please submit a signed, notarized, letter in which they give their consent for the child to be baptized in the Catholic faith. Also, in the case of divorce, we need to verify that there are no legal stipulations in the divorce decree against the child being baptized. This may also require a notarized statement. Please discuss this with the parish staff.
3. Godparents: Culturally, godparents are often picked because of family connections or as a way of honoring the person chosen. The Church, however, requires that at least one godparent be a Catholic, who has received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, is striving to live out their faith, and is willing to assist the parents / guardians in passing on the Catholic faith to the child. The Church recognizes and allows one male and one female godparent for each child. A godparent and a "Christian

Witness” – a person who practices another Christian tradition – is also acceptable. Godparents must complete the attached form in which they attest that they meet the Church’s requirements and promise to fulfill the role of a godparent.

Baptism Preparation Class

Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to the baptism. These are offered once each month. The class will help you deepen your understanding of the sacrament as well as review what you’ll need to do on the day of the baptism. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. The parish staff can give you the dates for the next few months.

Upcoming dates: _____

Schedule the Baptism

Typically, we celebrate baptisms once each month following the 11:30am Sunday Mass. The parish staff can give you these dates as well.

Upcoming dates: _____

Fee

There is no fee for the baptism. However, we’ve attached an offertory envelope in the hopes that you’ll want to assist the parish in its many ministries. Each day we offer the sacraments at the parish, in hospitals, and in homes. And, in keeping with Jesus’ commands, we assist the needy in our community, our diocese, and the world. None of this would be possible without the support of many. Please know that any gift of thanksgiving you provide will be greatly appreciated.

Finally,

Please understand that, under no circumstances, can we administer the sacrament unless the paperwork listed above has been submitted and the parents have attended the baptism class.

Questions?

Please direct any questions you may have to a member of the parish staff. They’ll be happy to assist you.

May God bless your family!