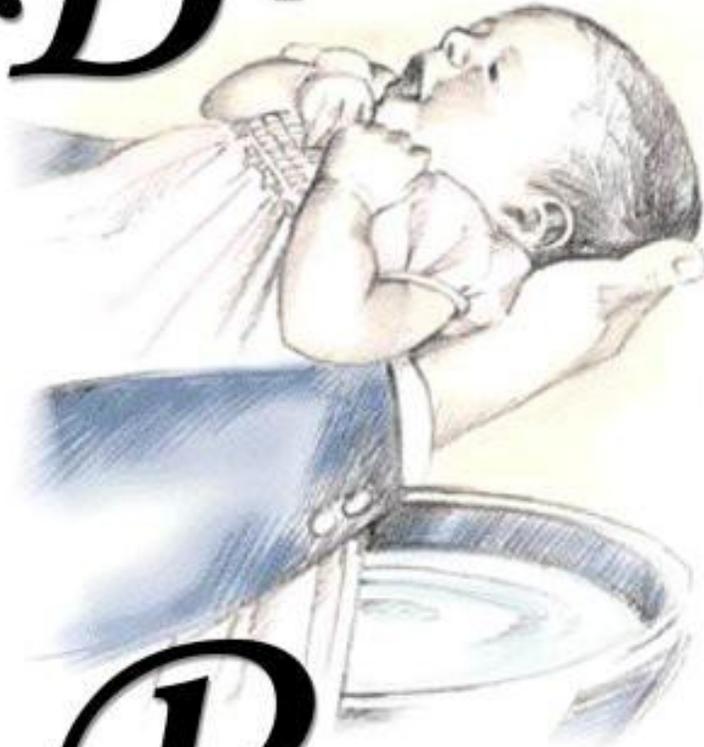


Baptism



Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism
at the
Church of St. Patrick

*Please do not book a hall or restaurant until a Priest or Deacon has confirmed your date.
Thank you for your cooperation.*



The Church of St. Patrick

137 Moseman Road ♦ Yorktown Heights, NY ♦ 10598-4806

Dear Parents,

We, the Clergy and Staff of Saint Patrick's Parish, want to help you prepare to have your child receive the Sacrament of Baptism. The birth of a child is a most beautiful and wonderful event because your child's life is a gift from God. You will never be the same again as you welcome with love this new life into your home.

Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Our Catholic community rejoices with you for this new gift of life and looks forward to welcoming your child into our Christian family. Without yet being able to understand, your child, through the mystery of Baptism, is entering into a unique spiritual relationship with our Heavenly Father, receiving the Holy Spirit, becoming a disciple, a follower of Christ and a member of God's family, the Body of Christ, the Church.

This preparation period enables you reflect upon your own spiritual life and your participation in the sacramental life of the Church. You are starting a new venture in life. Please also reflect upon how you are going to pass on the Faith and the Church's Tradition to your child. Passing the Catholic Faith on to the next generation is one of the most important tasks you have as parents. You are not alone in this effort. You are part of this parish family.

As primary teachers of your child, you will be role models for your child in this journey of faith. Through your example, your child will grow to become a follower of Christ and an active member of the Church

We are ever ready to assist you in this journey. As you prepare to celebrate this beautiful Sacrament, may God bless you and your child, your family and loved ones. May our Lord strengthen you in passing on to your child a strong, vibrant and fervent Faith that will be deepened with the reception of the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco

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Sacrament of Baptism Request Form

(Both Parents are encouraged to read this Handbook before submitting the Request Form)

Steps for Having Your Child Baptized:

Baptism Packet

Both Parents are encouraged to read the Pastor's Letter and this Baptism Packet. Please make note of any questions that you may have.

Become familiar with the Godparent guidelines outlined on page 7. Once your child is born or the adoption is final, complete the **Sacramental Request Form** included at the back of this Packet, along with the other required documents.

Parish Membership

Our Church is the Family of God (Body of Christ). The individual Parish is the basic family unit of our Church. Therefore, a child is usually baptized in the parish of the parents.

We would like you to be part of our family by being a registered member of and participating in St. Patrick's Parish. If you are not registered, you will need to do so before submitting your Sacramental Request Form.

If you are a member of another parish, you will need to obtain the permission of your pastor for the Baptism to take place here at Saint Patrick's Church.

Documents Needed

Parents need to submit the following documents along with the Sacramental Request Form:

- A copy of the child's Birth Certificate, finalized adoption papers, or letter of permission to baptize an adopted child,
- Completed and signed St. Patrick's Godparent Certificate(s), also signed and stamped by Parish of the godparent with the Parish Seal.
- Signed Permission Form from your pastor (if you are from another parish), stamped with parish seal,

Without these documents, the Baptism preparation process cannot begin and a Baptism cannot be scheduled.

A member of our Clergy will review your **Sacramental Request Form** and the above documents, and contact you to make appropriate arrangements.

Godparent Certificates

Godparents need a Certificate signed and sealed from their own Parish stating that they are members in good standing and are eligible to act as a Godparent for Baptism. Parents are to submit these certificates with the Sacramental Request Form.

Godparent forms are included in this Packet for use by Saint Patrick Parishioner's, which Godparents from other parishes may also use.

Scheduling the Baptism

Community Baptisms (maximum of 4 children) are scheduled for 2:00in the Main Church on various Sundays each month.

The exact Baptism Date for your child can only be arranged when all the documents have been submitted and you are contacted or meet with a member of our Clergy.

Adopted Child

If your child is adopted, we must view a copy of the original, *final* decree of adoption before we can schedule the Baptism.

If adoption papers are not yet in their final stage, then a letter from the Adoption Agency or Attorney that states that you have permission to baptize the child is required.

Individual Baptism

A private or individual baptism is permitted if you provide a Priest/Deacon from outside our Parish and the Church is available.

The exact Baptism Date for your child can only be arranged when all the documents have been submitted and you are contacted or meet with a member of our Clergy.

Clergy Meetings

First and *Second* Time parents begin the process with a class lead by a member of our Clergy (Priest/Deacon). This class may be taken on either the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm or the 4th Sunday of each month at 2:00pm. Class is held in room 101 of the Family Education Center located at the top of the parking lot. This **class is mandatory** for mother and father to attend. In order to make this requirement as easy as possible, you may bring your child, if need be. Please reference the attached Parent Preparation Class Schedule Sheet.

Naming Your Child

The name you select in addition to your family name will provide your child with a unique identity. The long-standing tradition of the Catholic Church has been to select at least one name of a saint or person from our Biblical tradition. A Christian name will provide your child with a model for Christ-centered living.

The following resources will assist you in selecting a name for your child:

- Patron Saints - <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/patron02.htm>
- Catholic Online - <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>
- Beyond the Name: <http://www.behindthename.com>

As your child grows, share with them the reason you picked their name and the history or tradition surrounding the Saint or Christian name that you selected.

Questions

If you have any questions related to our Baptism Process, please call the Rectory.

Infant/Children Baptism

God is Love

Scripture says: “God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.” *1John 4:16*

“God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that exchange of Love”. *CCC 221*

This is truly, what our Faith is all about – Learning how to fall head over heels in love with God – who is head over heels in love with us.

A journey that begins on our Baptism day, when the Lord pours the fullness of His love deep within each of us. Never to leave us from that day on. A journey that continues until we come Face to Face with our Lord. On that day, will the Lord see in us, His love being reflected back to Him?

We as humans have a great capacity for giving and receiving this love. We do not want our love to be just a momentary feeling either; we want it to become visible, tangible, lasting, and always more real. It is good that we have such desires.

Love has four Dimensions: Spiritual, Emotional, Mental, and Physical. We love each other in all four dimensions. It is also the way God loves us and asks that we love Him in return.

That is exactly what Jesus did to us. He Touched us. He became Visible, He needed to be nurtured, loved, fed, and taught. He grew up spending His whole life touching us in the four Dimensions of Love.

Before Jesus went to His Passion, He said I am not leaving you alone. I am not taking back the Physical Dimension of my Love. I will always be with You.

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him.” *John 6:56*

After Jesus’ Resurrection, He continues to Touch us. Jesus did many physical signs so you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and is physically present with us now, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

Sacrament of Baptism

Every Sacrament has two dimensions, that is, the dimension of the covenant and grace, and the dimension of sign. *John Paul 129*

Baptism confers covenant and grace upon us. Baptism is one of the sacraments of initiation, cleansing, strengthening, and welcoming. Baptism welcomes us into the community of Christian believers. It offers forgiveness of original sin, (personal sin for older children) and a new life in which we become the children of God, followers of Christ, temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Baptism leaves an indelible spiritual mark on our souls that makes us holy and opens us to salvation and eternal life with God. This is why we are only be baptized once; we have this indelible spiritual mark.

**Sacrament
of Baptism**
(Cont'd)

In Baptism, the potent symbols (signs) of water, oil, candles, white garment, words and sign of the Cross are used to wash away our sins and the effects of sin itself. It gives us a new identity, connects us to a new community of believers, initiates us into a new way of living, and provides a clear mission in life.

God has a Plan and we are Part of His Plan. Have you ever wondered why did God create me?

God has created us in His image and likeness. We have been created to complete His love. We do this by coming to know, love, and serve God in this world and be happy with Him forever in the next world.

In our birth, we complete our parents love. We too complete our Lord's love as well. Just as we come to know, love and serve (honor and obey) our parents, we need to come to know, love and serve our Lord as well. God has a Plan, we are Part of His Plan, and Baptism is the beginning for your child to walk with God in Love.

Think of this as you decide: Who do I choose to be in this life?

Who do I want my child to be?

O, Lord, help us to love You more and more!

O, Lord, help us, to love each other more!

**Primary
Educators**

Just as Jesus spoke often of doing his Father's will, it is the intention and teaching of the Catholic Church that parent(s) are the first teachers of their child(ren) in the ways of the Faith.

Parents are the primary educators, and they teach their children whether they know it or not. We teach by our words, example, action, and our relationships within the family and others.

The Parish of St. Patrick's welcomes and wants to help our parents be prepared and willing to accept the responsibility of raising their child(ren) in the practice of the Catholic Faith.

Parents are encouraged to reflect upon these responsibilities and have their child baptized within a reasonable time after birth.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic intending that the child become a full member of the Catholic Church (Baptism-Eucharist-Confirmation).

**Practice of
Faith**

We can only come to know God and love Him by being part of His family. Just as your child is part of your family, he/she cannot come to know you, love you and respond to you without being around you. Your child needs to grow up learning all about you and your extended family.

Within your family, you have certain norms, expectations, customs and traditions that you have learned through experience and knowledge. You were taught these by your family.

Think of your family when they celebrate. They come together at table to listen and talk with each other (Word), they eat and drink at Table, and they exchange thoughts and ideas (learning).

**Practice of
Faith
(cont'd)**

Our Church is the Family of God (Body of Christ). By our participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist on a regular basis, we participate in family. We listen to our Father's and Jesus' Words together, we partake in His actual physical presence with and in us.

Since Baptism is entrance into a living and lived Faith, parents participate at Mass not only for your own good, but also as a model for your child(ren). You should explore your understanding and participation in the Mass and Sacraments as you prepare for your child's Baptism.

“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the Faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's Commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”

(Rite of Baptism)

**Sacramental
Marriage**

The Sacrament of Marriage is a way in which Jesus chooses to provide for the world a human, visible sign of His divine love.

He uses water, oil, candles, and a white garment in Baptism as a sign that he has poured himself into your child.

He uses water and wine in the Holy Eucharist to be signs of His love revealed in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick He uses oil as a sign of His healing power.

In Marriage, He chooses to have the love of a man and woman be a sign of His love for His people. He joined His divine nature to the human nature He took from the womb of Mary, and did so to show His love for His people. Marital love is marked by an exclusive love of each person for the other, just as God's love is for us.

If you are a couple who has not been sacramentally married in a Catholic Church, or if one of the parents has been divorced and remarried outside the Catholic Church, the Priests/Deacons of this parish will work with you with compassion and sensitivity to assist you in the process of convalidating your marriage. This will help you in being a model of faith and practice for your child(ren), and a sign of God's love.

Godparents

*“Are you ready to help the
parents of this child in their
duty as Christian parents?”*

(Rite of Baptism)

Infant/Children Baptism – Cont'd

Godparents

Reflect with care when asking someone to be a Godparent for your child. Give consideration to someone special, who will be part of your child's life, help you as parents, and will be a representative of our Catholic Community at the Baptism.

When you ask someone to be a Godparent, you are asking that person to accept an Honor and Sacred Responsibility. When they say yes, they are accepting a Vocation to be a Role Model by participating and sharing in your child's Catholic life and education with a lifelong relationship of prayer, faith sharing, example, and love.

Godparents also need to be part of a Parish Family where they are practicing and living their faith on a regular basis.

The following guidelines will help you consider carefully and prayerfully why you are asking someone to be a Godparent and who you will ask to accept this responsibility:

1. The Church requires only **One Catholic Godparent**, but parents may select two – a Godfather and a Godmother 14 years or older.
 - Parents may not serve as their child's Godparent.
 - There can only be one Godfather and one Godmother for each child.
2. A Catholic Godparent must be a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church, having received the Sacraments of **Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist** and:
 - A person living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and practicing their faith (i.e. attending Sunday Mass, receiving the sacraments and above all, providing good example of faith.)
 - If married, was sacramentally married in the Catholic Church.
3. Other than a Roman Catholic, only a baptized member of the Eastern (Orthodox) Catholic Churches may act as a Godparent, but the other Godparent needs to be a Roman Catholic.
4. A person baptized in another recognized Christian denomination may stand as a "**Christian Witness**", **alongside a Roman Catholic Godparent**, but **cannot be a Godparent**.
5. A **baptized Roman Catholic** who **does not meet** the guidelines for a Catholic Godparent or now practices in another Christian denomination, **may not serve** as either a Godparent or as a Christian Witness.

Godparents need a Certificate signed and sealed from their own Parish stating that they are members in good standing and are eligible to act as a Godparent for Baptism. Parents are to submit these certificates with the Sacramental Request Form.

Godparent forms are included in this Packet for use by Saint Patrick Parishioner's, which Godparents from other parishes should also use.

**Proxy for
Godparent**

Should either or both Catholic Godparent(s) be unable to attend the Baptism, a proxy may be named to stand in during the ceremony. The same stipulations apply for proxies as for Catholic Godparents. There should be a written statement from the Godparent accepting responsibility for the role of godparent and giving permission for the proxy.



Guidelines for the Day of Baptism

Arrival Time Baptisms are scheduled to begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Church. Parents and Godparents need to arrive by 1:45 p.m. A designated reserved Pew in the main aisle is provided for each family (locate your family name). Other family and guests should sit in the outlying pews on a first come basis.

Pictures at the Baptism Photographs and video are encouraged at the baptism ceremony. These are excellent means of sharing the memory of this joyous and special day with your child as he/she grows in age and faith. They will also turn out to be a good teaching tool.

However, we request that you adhere to the following guidelines which enable a joyful community celebration, respect for individual families, and acknowledgment that Christ is present in this Sacrament:

- Pictures may only be taken from where you are seated during the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- However, when the Parents and Godparents approach the Baptismal Font, families may stand in Front of the Font to take Pictures.
- When the Parents move to the Altar Area, guests need to go back to their seats to continue taking pictures.

After The Ceremony, Pictures may be taken within the Church. The Celebrant is always happy to stay for pictures with your family after the baptism.

Clothing and Candle A white Christening gown is customary but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's breast. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for the baptism.

The parish provides a white Baptismal Robe and a Baptismal Candle. After the ceremony, they will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous milestone. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future. A Baptism Anniversary celebration is inside the candle box.

Family Donation There is no fee for a baptisms; however many families wish to offer a donation on the occasion of their child's Baptism. When making an offering, place it in the envelope included in the Baptismal Preparation Package. Please be sure to indicate your Child's name and the date of the baptism.

Baptismal Record and Certificate The baptism is recorded in the permanent records of our parish from the information you provide. Therefore, please review the baptism certificate for the accuracy of information and the spelling of names. Please return it should there be any changes needed.

Post Baptism Celebrations Many families have found when planning a celebration with family and friends after the Baptism, scheduling the celebration to begin at 3:30 p.m. or later works out the best. This provides time after the Baptism to take pictures within the Church and travel to the designated location.



Now that Your Child has been Baptized

Parents

You have made a very important decision on behalf of your child to be baptized as a Catholic. Making this decision for your child brings with it your PROMISE to bring up your child in the Catholic faith ...“to love God and neighbor”... to become a “faithful follower and witness to the gospel” of Jesus Christ.

Models of Christianity

Authors Larsen and Galvin express it this way: *“...if you could creep into your children’s minds while they are saying their night prayers and see the visual image of God they are praying to, you would find your own face there. You are the only way your children can relate to God in their early years.”*

Your child will notice everything you do. You are a Role Model whether you feel up to the task or not! The formation of a good Christian conscience is important in bringing up a child in the faith. Teaching the difference between right and wrong cannot wait until grade school; it begins as soon as your child understands the words *yes* and *no*.

- Be filled with the love God has for you and for your child. Begin early to take your child to Mass. It is most important that your child sees you practicing your faith: participating in Mass and the other Sacraments, praying at home, taking part in the life of the community, giving aid to those in need, and making good moral decisions.
- Teach them to pray ... at meals, at bedtime, for their needs and the needs of others. Use prayers in your own words, traditional prayers, and prayers from books.
- Select some religious music CD’s. Play and sing along with them at home and in the car.
- Get a children’s Bible and begin to read stories from it now, even before your child can understand them. You and other family members will enjoy their simple messages. Use this or a big family Bible for recording the names and special dates of each family member.
- Celebrate religious anniversaries, especially Baptism days. Bake a cake; light the child’s baptismal candle; pray and sing in thanksgiving.
- Invite Godparents to these and other special events. Encourage them to spend time with your child. They can be supportive, interested adults, especially as a child grows older.
- Teach them to love and respect others, and the real meaning of Christmas and Easter.
- Place Catholic symbols in your home (Crucifix, Scripture Verse, Pictures, Art ...)
- See that your child receives a formal religious education – Catholic School or Religious Education classes.

**Your
Example is
the most
important
Thing**

What do you want your child to learn from you about our faith? What do you need to do to help that happen?

Show God's Love to your children in the following ways:

- Your love for your spouse
- Your love for others
- Your Prayer
- Your Scripture Reading
- Your Worship
- Your Service

Get involved in the Parish, but do not get over-committed – Your first responsibility is to be there for your Children.

Make this a priority. You may make mistakes, but keep trying. It is THE most important thing you can do with Your life!

**You are not
Alone**

Our Lord does not expect you to do this all by yourself. That is why He makes Himself present in His Word, His Church, and The Eucharist. He wants to reach out and touch you and your family with all His love. He has also given you a Parish Family to help you with growing more in love with Him each day. Please take advantage of all our parish has to offer you. The 9:15 AM Mass each Sunday has many families in attendance, and between September and June there is a Children's Mass at 9:15 AM on the first Sunday of the month.

Parentcare

You are invited to visit a Parentcare Group meeting at our Church.

God gave us the vocation of parenthood. Parentcare is meant to help you nurture that calling.

Parents come for a variety of reasons. Some want to meet other new parents in the parish; some want the child to socialize with other toddlers. We are confident that, when you participate, your child will be blessed through your up to date knowledge of the spiritual, emotional and social needs of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

An educated response to your baby's signals will empower you in raising your children. It is enriching and stimulating to discuss your concerns with other parents who share your values and faith in God.

As the most important educators your child will ever have, you will learn effective ways to meet parenting challenges before stressful situations become overwhelming. Caring for your child will be even more interesting and rewarding when you know the underlying reasons for different behaviors. You will discover that the satisfactions of parenting deepen and broaden with learning and sharing about emotional and spiritual needs. You will become increasingly aware of how your parent/child relationship is the agent for the little one's relationship with God, particularly in the years prior to age three.

Please see our Website for more information on our Parish and Parentcare: <http://www.stpatricks-yorktown.org/home.html>

You have been chosen to be your child's first and best teacher.

God bless you in this important role!

Sacrament of Baptism Request Form
(Please print clearly)

Family Name _____

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ **Birth Place** _____

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____ **Cell #** _____

Email _____

Father's Full Name _____

Religion: _____ **Active?** _____

Mother's Full Name (Maiden) _____

Religion: _____ **Active?** _____

Parents' Marital Status: _____ **Married in the Catholic Church?** _____

Godparent/Christian Witness

1. _____ **Religion** _____

2. _____ **Religion** _____

Was this child previously baptized? _____

If so, when and where _____

Was this child adopted? _____

If so, please submit copy of adoption papers.

Is this your 1st or 2nd child? _____

All paperwork must be submitted to the Rectory before:

- **Baptism is scheduled**
- **Baptism class is attended**

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE BAPTISM / CONFIRMATION

Please complete and sign this form. Then take this form to the Parish you **presently attend** and have it **signed** and **sealed**. Return the completed form to the Parents.

Congratulations on your being asked to be a sponsor (Godparent) for the Sacrament of Baptism / Confirmation! In accepting this offer, you are also accepting the responsibility of being a model of Catholic living for your Godchild, who will look to you for guidance and support. In order to accept this responsibility, there are certain requirements of Canon Law which you must fulfill.

I, _____, have been asked to be a Sponsor for
_____ in the Sacrament of Baptism / Confirmation.

I am a registered parishioner at _____

I affirm before God that:

- I am at least 14 years of age and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion in the Catholic Church.
- I attend Catholic Mass every Sunday and Holyday of Obligation, or promise to do so from now on.
- If married, my marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.
- I do not deliberately practice any behavior which is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- I will strive to be a good Catholic role model for my Godchild.

I understand and accept the responsibility I undertake as a Sponsor, and I promise, before God, to be a support and example to this person in his/her efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teachings of the Catholic Church, and I am prepared to assist him/her by my support, encouragement and prayer.

(Sponsor's Signature)

(Sponsor's Phone #)

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this person is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation.

(Date)

Church Seal

(Priest's Signature)

St. Patrick's Church, 137 Moseman Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE BAPTISM / CONFIRMATION

Congratulations on your being asked to be a sponsor (Godparent) for the Sacrament of Baptism / Confirmation! In accepting this offer, you are also accepting the responsibility of being a model of Catholic living for your Godchild, who will look to you for guidance and support. In order to accept this responsibility, there are certain requirements of Canon Law which you must fulfill.

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(Sponsor's Signature)

(Sponsor's Phone #)

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this person is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation.

(Date)

Church Seal

(Priest's Signature)

St. Patrick's Church, 137 Moseman Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Parent Baptism Preparation Class

Schedule

If it is your 1st or 2nd child to be Baptised you must attend a **mandatory class** run by one of our priest or deacon. This class is usually held on the **2nd Tuesday** and **4th Sunday** of each month. The Tuesday class begins at 7:30pm and Sunday's class starts at 2:00pm. Both classes are held in room **101 of the Family Education Center**, on top of the blacktop.

Tuesday	October 10, 2017	7:30pm	
Sunday	October 22, 2017	2:00pm	
Tuesday	November 14, 2017	7:30pm	
Sunday	November 26, 2017	2:00pm	
Tuesday	December 12, 2017	7:30pm	
Sunday	December 24, 2017	2:00pm	NO CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday	January 9, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	January 28, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	February 6, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	February 25, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	March 13, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	March 18, 2018	2:00pm	NO Palm Sunday
Tuesday	April 10, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	April 22, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	May 8, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	May 20, 2018	2:00pm	NO Memorial Weekend
Tuesday	June 12, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	June 24, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	July 10, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	July 22, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	August 7, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	August 26, 2018	2:00pm	
Tuesday	September 11, 2018	7:30pm	
Sunday	September 23, 2018	2:00pm	