

Preparation for “Infant” Baptism

We have “infant” in quotation marks above because the Church’s definition of infant is not the common one. For the purposes of presenting a child for baptism, the Church understands any child below the age of reason (usually considered 7 years old) to be an infant. Thus, while most parents present infants or toddlers for baptism, older children (through 6 year olds) are presented through the same process. Children 7 and over (and adults) are prepared for baptism and the other sacraments of initiation through a separate process call the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Our preparation process is designed to give our parents a grounding in the Church’s understanding of the sacrament of baptism, and how parents may develop habits and rituals within their own homes to share faith and pray together. The process consists of an initial individual meeting, and then two classes with other parents presenting children for baptism.

Parents preparing to present a child for baptism who have completed the full preparation process at Saint Katharine’s for an another child within the last four years may be allowed to go through a condensed preparation process after the initial parent meeting.

Baptism Prep Classes and Scheduling

Initial Parent Meeting (scheduled individually)

During this informal conversation a staff member or volunteer will explain the preparation process for infant baptism here at Saint Katharine’s and will gather some information about the child being baptized and about the parent(s) faith journey. This meeting will enable us to lay the groundwork for a meaningful and successful preparation process.

Theology of Baptism Class

This class usually gathers together a small group of parents who are preparing to baptize children in the same general time-frame. It provides formation on what the sacrament of baptism is all about, some of the history of the sacrament, and how the sacrament is celebrated.

Rituals for Family Success Class

This class usually gathers together a small group of parents who are preparing to baptize children in the same general time-frame. This class answers the question, “So after my child has been baptized, now what?” During this class we discuss different ways that parents can continue to grow in their own faith and to foster the faith of their children as they grow.

Date	Time	Class
11 July 2021 (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
8 August (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success
12 September (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
10 October (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success
14 November (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
5 December (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success
9 January 2022 (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
13 February (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success
6 March (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
3 April (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success
8 May (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Theology of Baptism
5 June (Sunday)	1:00- 2:30pm	Rituals for Family Success