

A close-up photograph of a baby being baptized. The baby is lying on their back, eyes closed, wearing a white lace christening gown. A hand is pouring water from a large, light-colored conch shell into the baby's hair. The background is a blue and white tiled fontaine.

PREPARING TO HAVE YOUR CHILD

Baptized

(Infants and children under age 7)



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER



BAPTISM IS

More Than You Realize

Have you ever wondered what happens when a person is baptized *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?*

Children of the Father

You become of child of God through baptism. Adam and Eve are our first parents. When Adam and Eve sinned, it corrupted their hearts, their minds, and even their flesh. In baptism, we go from being children of Adam and Eve to becoming children of God. St. John the Evangelist wrote, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

Into the Likeness of Jesus Christ

You are saved from sin through baptism by the power of Jesus' cross and resurrection. Jesus does this not by giving us the gift for our own use but by drawing us into himself, to become a part of his body. It is the grace of baptism that continues to transform us throughout our lives to change our hearts and become more like the one who saved us.

Filled with the Holy Spirit

You become a temple of the Holy Spirit through baptism. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove and that event was the catalyst for him to fulfill his calling as Messiah. When a person is baptized, the Holy Spirit fills them with the same spirit and gifts that dwell within Jesus. This includes the grace to grow in virtue and in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In addition to these gifts the sacrament also provides distinctive missions, anointings and graces that will assist the baptized in living a life of fullness and greatness, bringing glory to God.



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Preparation Steps For Baptism

1. Call Your Parish

A member of the parish staff will guide you through the following steps.

2. Complete Baptism Info Form

This information will be used to record the celebration of the sacrament in the parish's official sacramental records. When your child is later confirmed and celebrates either holy matrimony or holy orders, anywhere in the world, the record of that celebration will be recorded at the parish where he/she was baptized.

3. Complete Godparent Eligibility Form(s)

Godparents stand as representatives of the Catholic Church during the celebration of baptism but also provide the parents with support in raising their children in the Catholic faith. This form ensures that a godparent is eligible according to the Church's law to assume this duty. Godparents must be over 16, confirmed, in a valid sacramental marriage (if married), and be actively practicing the faith.

4. Baptism Preparation Program

When a baby is baptized, he/she is baptized based on the desire and faith of the parent(s). Because of this, we offer the opportunity to learn why we baptize, what baptism is, and what the effects and obligations are that go along with it. This preparation will inform the parents and godparents in those areas and empower them to make the promises that are proclaimed during a baptism celebration. ***Both the parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism preparation program.***

5. Schedule the Baptism With Your Parish

While the main priority is getting the child baptized, you are encouraged to pay attention to special dates, feast days, and the patron saints of those days on the liturgical calendar. God does everything for a reason and the date that your child is baptized will likely have grace-filled implications for the rest of their life!

6. Celebration of Baptism!

Congratulations to you and your little one! Today begins the life-long journey of receiving and being transformed by the radical love of God through Jesus Christ. Welcome to the family!

“When we baptize a child, the Holy Spirit enters that child, and the Holy Spirit makes... the Christian virtues grow in that child, who will then flourish.”

- Pope Francis



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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact your local parish office

archden.org/boundaries