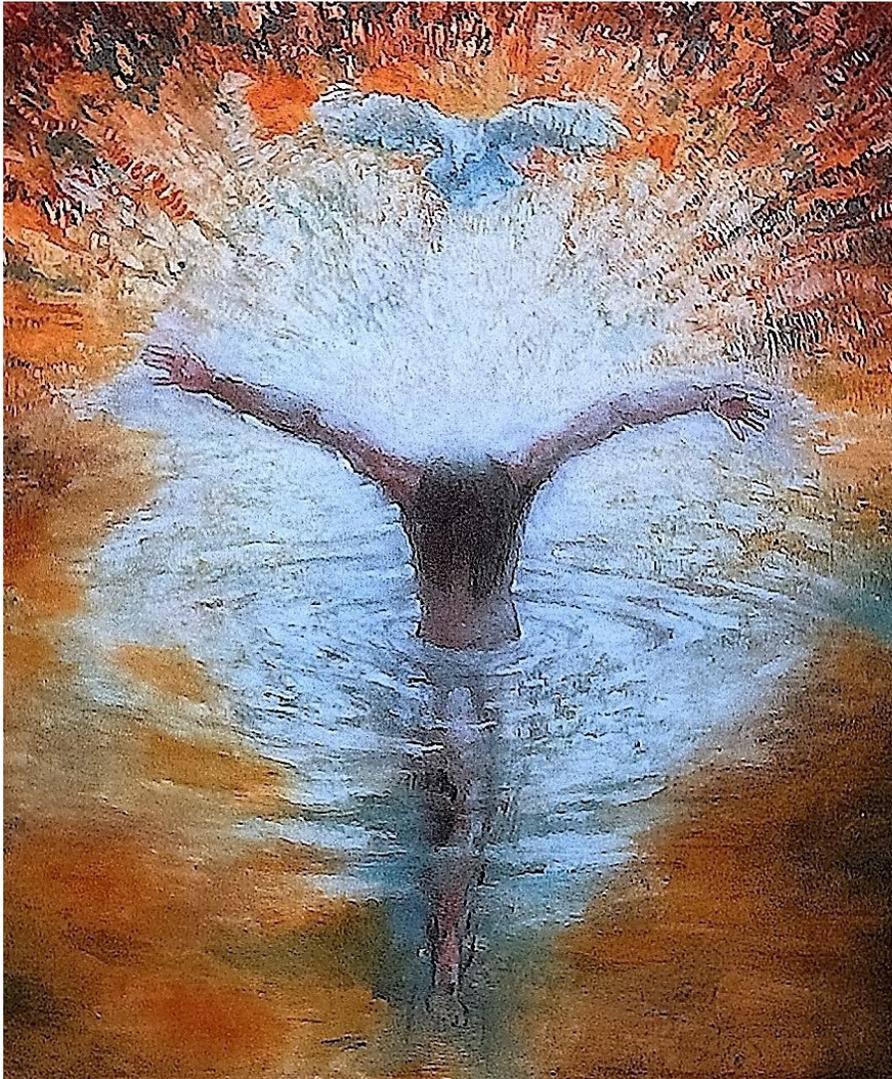


*Sacrament
of
Baptism*



The Baptism of the Christ, Crucified
(by Daniel Bonnell, 2011)



St. Therese Parish

6400 Saint Therese Way • San Diego, CA 92120-3018

Sacrament of Baptism

Thank you for inquiring about the *Sacrament of Baptism* for your child, the most precious gift God may give you.... When parents baptize their children, you are accepting the responsibility of teaching them how they should live in this kingdom here on earth, so they may embrace the Kingdom that is to come. This is so important! As God's People, the Body of Christ, our Church teaches that each of us should be a sacrament of Our Lord in the life we live. This is why we have a relationship with one another, celebrating our faith all the days of our lives, and why we rejoice in your decision to baptize your child!

Enclosed you will find information about Baptism. Many aspects of the Sacrament are outlined for your consideration and reflection. All are offered to help you as parents to pray about, and consider your response to, these questions.... which are given to you as way to begin considering the meaning and consequence of Baptism:

✘ Are you in relationship with the Catholic Church (such as worshipping at Mass, belonging to a faith community, a parish)? Do you participate in the parish life (events and such) and too, do you engage in the service responsibilities of being a disciple of the Lord? If not, *why not?* Are you committed to being not just the first “teachers” of the faith, but the best example for your child of what it means be a faithful disciple of Christ?

✘ Are you committed to bringing your children up in the practice of the faith so they may know Who the Lord is, and have an experience of His Presence—in the Bible and His Church—so they will be able to choose as an adult to live as a Catholic Christian or not?

Please think about all of these questions – *before* you baptize your child – as now is truly the time *for you* to reflect on what the Lord means to YOU! To help you appreciate the importance of these reflection questions, we offer a formal baptismal preparation session. We invite our parents to come to this session *after* you have considered all of the consequences of what it means to *be* a disciple of the Lord. We want you to appreciate that the Sacrament of Baptism is not a singular “event” in the life of your child, but, a celebration of a LIFE-LONG relationship with Christ, in and through the family of the Church. Sponsors (godparents) are always invited to these sessions as well, along with entering into the reflections asked of you!



So, please begin by considering the questions above; and consider how *you* will share our faith and mission s disciples of the Lord, with the precious gift of your child! And after you have reflected on, and discussed together, your sense of your own faith, and have given a review of the expectations (the laws) of the Catholic Church on baptism (last page), please complete the registration form – and bring it to the Parish Office, mail it, or bring it to Mass and give it to the priest or deacon. You will receive a call from the parish, inviting you to a baptismal preparation meeting. (You are also invited to come and talk about this Sacrament, or your faith in general, questions about the Catholic Church, concerns or issues you may have, etc., at anytime. We are here to serve you!)

In the hope and prayer **we all** will be faithful disciples of the Lord, please know our parish is here to serve you in anyway we may. **We need you!**

Respectfully yours, in His Name and service,

Fr. Peter J. Bosque, *Pastor*
Pastor
FR.BOSQUE@STTHERESEPARISH.ORG
(619) 582-3716 ext. 103

Deacon Jeff Penta
Deacon
DEACON.PENTA@STTHERESEPARISH.ORG
(619) 582-3716 ext. 104

Mrs. Kimberly Penta
Pastoral Associate
KIMBERLY.PENTA@STTHERESEPARISH.ORG
(619) 582-3716 ext. 104

Mrs. Bonnie McFarland,
Pastoral Support
BONNIE@STTHERESEPARISH.ORG
(619) 582-3716 ext. 102

St. Therese Parish

Baptismal Preparation Process

Our parish community extends a warm and loving welcome to you, as you prepare for the celebration of the *Sacrament of Baptism*. We welcome you, your family, and most especially your child, as we begin the walk, the journey, of faith together.

Our Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of the faith, and are critical to the mission of sharing the saving love and faith in the Lord. This is why the parents **must be believers**, who are ready and willing to help their own children, and all Christians, to practice the faith — so the grace of our own Baptism may unfold in ALL of our lives.

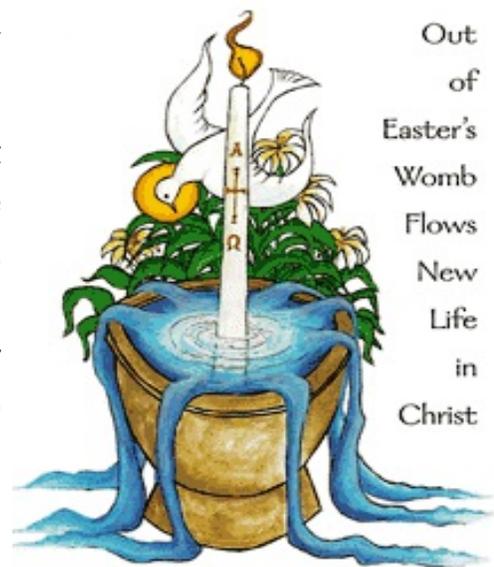


Our preparation sessions, usually held monthly, are offered to help our parents to understand their mission to carry Christ into the world: As the Gospel of John says: “*Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through me...’ and ‘Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me **will do the works that I do...**’*”

Emphasis added.

Our Baptism preparation process is offered to deepen your faith to be ever more faithful to these Gospel words in and through the Catholic faith celebrated in all our Sacraments.

Please come prepared by praying about your faith commitment, consider the questions asked of you in our baptismal invitation letter, and reflect on how you are *actually* living our Catholic faith — developing and deepening your faith, engaging His Church, and celebrating a life-long relationship with Christ Jesus *and* His Church, the community of fellow believers....



CHECKLIST for BAPTISM **Steps on this part of the journey**

_____ Consider the importance of *Baptism*, and what is expected of you as parents.

_____ Consider the importance of who you have chosen to be sponsors of the Catholic faith (godparents). Are they people who have been baptized in the Catholic Faith, received First Holy Communion, are themselves confirmed, and have chosen to live their faithful lives *as part of* the Catholic Church?

Reflect on the need for understanding the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism as a public statement of what you believe, an expression that you are *committed* to worship and serve the Lord and others, and live a lifestyle reflecting your discipleship in Christ so your child will come to know and love the Lord as a Catholic Christian. Consider how, and who, you have invited to be participants not just in the Baptism but the life of your child, people who represent the truth that Christ calls a *people* to the Living waters of His Love.... the sponsors of the Catholic faith, the godparents.

_____ Come to appreciate how the Baptism of your child is part of your making a commitment to live the faith as the Catholic Church teaches, as a Catholic Christian.

_____ Complete the *Baptism Registration Form*, and bring it to the parish office, mail it, or drop it off at Mass in the collection basket (in an envelope). You will then be invited to a baptismal preparation session.

_____ Participate in the baptismal preparation session.

_____ **Please consider a stewardship donation to your parish church** — doing so in proportion to other expenses you have chosen/made in the baptism (doing so by following the tithing principle of the Bible). Add up all the discretionary expenses you choose to make (e.g., baptismal clothes, social expenses, etc.), and then tithe an amount of that (10% of those expenses, such as \$30, \$50, \$75, etc.). Your donation, as stewardship always does, goes to support the work of our parish. Make a prayerful consideration of what you will give, and make that offering, your donation, perhaps at the preparation session and not on the day of the Baptism.

_____ **After the preparation session**, consider a baptism date. You will be called and asked what are your preferred date and time for your family.

_____ Participate in the *Sacrament of Baptism*, and then **live** in the Name of the Lord, along with your brothers and sisters!

May your child always....
experience the comfort of the Father's love,
have faith in His Son,
and know the wisdom of the Spirit....

Code of Canon Law (laws which governs the Catholic Church and Her administration of the Sacraments—*selected codes*)

Can. 774 §2 Before all others, parents are bound to form their children, **by word and example, in faith and in Christian living**. The same obligation binds sponsors (godparents) and those who take the place of parents. (*Emphasis added*)

CHAPTER I : THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Can. 851 The celebration of baptism should be properly prepared. Accordingly: (1° addresses adults)
2° the parents of a child who is to be baptized, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsors, are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attaching to it. The parish priest is to see to it that either he or others duly prepare the parents, by means of pastoral advice and indeed by prayer together; a number of families might be brought together for this purpose and, where possible, each family visited.

Can. 855 Parents, sponsors and parish priests are to take care that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.

CHAPTER III : THE PERSONS TO BE BAPTIZED

Can. 867 §1 Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it.

Can. 868 §1 For an infant to be baptized lawfully it is required:

1° that the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent;
2° that **there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion**. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. (*Emphasis added*. “Particular law” refers to the local Bishop.)

CHAPTER IV : SPONSORS (Godparents)

Can. 872 In so far as possible, a person being baptized is to be assigned a sponsor. ... In the case of an infant baptism, the role is together with the parents to present the child for baptism, and to help the child to live a Christian life befitting the baptized and faithfully to fulfil the duties inherent in baptism.

Can. 873 One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex.

Can. 874 §1 To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:

1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
2° be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
3° be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and **who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken** (*emphasis added*);
4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5° not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized.

§2 A baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.

Having read this packet, prayed about the *consequences* of Baptism, please complete the next page and return to our parish, *Saint Therese Parish* (by dropping it off at the office, giving it to the priest at Mass, etc.)

INFORMATION on CHILD to be BAPTIZED

Full name of the child: _____

Address (Street, City & Zipcode): _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Date and place of Birth: _____

Father's full name: _____ His Religion: _____

Mother's full *maiden* name: _____ Her Religion: _____

Married in the Catholic Church – yes no. Where did you marry, and what was name of the priest or minister?

If you did not marry in the Church, why did you not celebrate your commitment of love and life with your Church, especially since you now are wanting the Catholic Church to be so intimately involved in the life of your child?

How often do you worship with us; if not often, please consider and give some sense of why you want to baptize your child in our parish? What are other ways do you express your faith in Jesus Christ?



Godparent (the sponsor who is a practicing Catholic): _____

Address (Street, City & Zip code): _____

Godparent (sponsor, or witness if not a practicing Catholic): _____ Religion: _____

Address (Street, City & Zip code): _____

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me....’”
and “‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the works that I do.’”*
(Gospel of John)

Any questions you might have: _____

(Please bring this form to the Parish.)

Office Use:	
Date Received: _____	Pastoral Review: _____
Prep Session Completed: _____	
Baptism Celebrated: _____	and by whom: _____

Code of Canon Law

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