

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Blessings on the baptism of your child/ren. We at St. Martha's are happy to take this journey with you as you prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. **Baptism is a beautiful gift, that's why we celebrate this sacrament as a community gathered together with many families from our parish.** This gift is one which you have freely chosen to share with your child/ren and for this we are truly grateful. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains:

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to the life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the church, and made sharers in her mission" (CCC 1213).

God has entrusted this child to you and will bless your family as you strengthen your relationship with Christ and His church. Your call as Catholic Christian parents/guardians will not always be easy, but God will give you the grace, strength, and guidance as you trust in Him and grow in your faith. Baptism is only the beginning of your child's faith journey *"for all the baptized, children or adults, faith must grow after baptism"* (CCC 1254). St. Martha's offers continued connections to God and His church for your family through masses each day as well as Sundays and Holy Days; devotional opportunities; social gatherings; religious education programs; and further sacramental preparation as your child grows. However, the passing on of faith that you will provide as the first teacher through your Christian witness and participation in prayer are invaluable gifts for your children. Thank you for your commitment.

Choosing a Godparent

Along with the graces God has shared with you to raise your child/ren in the church, you are blessed to choose one or two godparents to support you in this journey. Selecting a godparent should not be taken lightly. The Catechism says godparents *"must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life"* (1255). Who you choose as godparent/s not only supports your child's faith formation but also represent the Church and the community of faith. The requirements for the godparent/s are listed in this packet; do spend time in prayer discerning who will fill this important role in your child's journey of faith.

Our community is praying for you as you continue to prepare for your child's baptism. Some scripture passages that may be helpful to meditate on during the upcoming weeks include:

- Galatians 3:26-28 *"We are all one in Christ" – With whom will you be united through this baptismal preparation time?*
- Exodus 17:3-7 – God will provide the water for our thirst. *Can we trust in God for all things?*
- 1 Peter 2:4-5. 9-10 - We are precious in God's sight; we are a royal priesthood. *How do I feel called to serve through God's grace?*

With continued prayers for a joyous journey,

Very Rev. Carlos Martinez, VF

Pastor

cmartinez@sbdioocese.org



For the next baptism class please email to
angeleslopez@sbdioocese.org

Baptismal Dates

The date for your child's baptism will be confirmed until you return the packet with the attached checklist into the parish office.

Please note:
Baptism are celebrated in a group, as we are unable to accommodate private Baptisms.

If you have any questions please contact the Baptism Administrative Coordinator, Angeles Lopez at angeleslopez@sbdioocese.org or call the parish office at (951) 698-8180 ext. 219.

St. Martha's Infant Baptism Packet Requirements

"Infant" baptism is described as baptism for any child under the age of 7 years old, for a child who is 7 years or older go to www.stmarthaformation.com to learn about our programs for sacramental preparation.

Child Name: _____

Parent Names: _____

Contact Number: _____

Envelope #: _____

Office Use Only

Baptism Class: _____ (M) _____ (F) _____ (GM) _____ (GF)

PARENTS REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Administrative cost \$75. *(Cash or Check payable to St. Martha Catholic Parish)*
- covers administrative fees. Please let us know if there is a financial hardship.
- 2) Return completed Baptismal package.
- 3) Attach a copy of child's Birth Certificate.
- 4) Parents must attend a Baptism Class.

GODPARENT REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Only one Godfather or one Godmother is necessary; If there are two, they must be of the Opposite sex (Canon Law 873)
- 2) Must be older than 16 of age (Canon Law 874)
- 3) Must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church (Cannon Law 874)
Must have received Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass weekly actively and practicing their faith.
If married, MUST be married in the Catholic Church.
- 4) Must read, sign and comply with the godparent's commitment form
- 5) Godparent/s must attend a Baptism Class.

Please Note: If you have chosen to have a Christian witness instead of your second Godparent, He/she should practice the Christian Faith and we strongly recommend that attend the baptismal class.

*If you have attended a Baptism class in the last three years, is not necessary to attend again. Please note down below if you qualify for this exemption. (If you attended class in another parish you must bring the certificate or proof of attendance).

Parent Comments	Office Use Only

St. Martha Catholic Church

Baptism Registration Form



Child's full name: _____

Birthday: _____

City of Birth: _____

Family Information

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Registration Status:

Name of the catholic parish to which family belongs _____

Was Child Baptized Under an Emergency (Circle One): Yes / No

Parent Information

Father's full name: _____

Catholic? (Circle One): Yes / No; If not, what religion? _____

Will Participate in Ceremony? (Circle One): Yes / No

Mother's maiden full name: _____

Catholic? (Circle One): Yes / No; If not, what religion? _____

Will Participate in Ceremony? (Circle One): Yes / No

Do both parents consent to this child being baptized? (Circle One): Yes / No

Godparent Information

Godfather's Name: _____

What is the name of the Catholic parish He attends? _____

Must have Completed All Sacraments: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation

Single ____ / Married ____ **MUST MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Godmother's Name: _____

What is the name of the Catholic parish She attends? _____

Must have Completed All Sacraments: Baptism, Communion and Confirmation

Single ____ / Married ____ **MUST MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

If one Godparent (opposite sex) is non-Catholic, He or She can be admitted as a Christian witness.

Christian Witness's name: _____

What religion? _____

St. Martha Catholic Church

Godparent Commitment Form

You have been asked to be a godparent, how exciting. You have said yes, which means you will be taking on an important and crucial role in this child's life, especially in their faith journey. The Code of Canon Law says that your role as godparent is *"together with the parents, to present an infant at baptism, and to help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it"* (No. 872). This is an important task and with God's grace you can fulfill it. Although none of us are perfect, you should be striving to fulfill your own obligations of your Baptism and Confirmation, continually growing in your own understanding of the teachings of the Church, and willing to help lead your godchild towards Christ and the Church. Some ways you can do this is by regularly praying for them (and telling them you do), going to Mass with them, and sharing how God is working in your own life.

If you are not Catholic, your role in the child's life is still important. Their parents have asked you to help bring their child up in his or her faith as a Christian witness because of your love for Christ and they are asking you to help nourish that same love in their child.

Since this is such an important role it is suggested that before you sign the commitment form, you spend time in prayer discerning if you are ready to take on this spiritual commitment.

Child's Name: _____

I, _____, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a Godparent for Baptism, **solemnly affirm that:**

You must initial next statements, and if applicable only one (married or single)

_____ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation)

_____ Married, if I am married, I also married by the Catholic Church.

_____ Single

_____ I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Faith, and I will do the best of my ability to carry out the obligations of my role as godparent.

Understand that by committing to the role of Godparent, I become responsible to be a model and example to the child as a committed and active Catholic and to support his/her parents in the practice of our Catholic faith.

Godparent Signature: _____

For Christian Witness ONLY:

I, _____, understand that by committing to the role of Christian witness, I become responsible to be a model and example to the child as a committed and active Christian. I understand that although I am not Catholic, I am still to support his/her parents in raising him/her to know, love and serve Jesus Christ, with respecting the Roman Catholic Church and to follow His word to the best of my ability.

Christian Witness Signature: _____

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