

## **Baptism Procedures**

Mary, Queen of Peace

- Please arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of the Mass at which your baptism is scheduled to take place.
  - The families of the children to be baptized normally sit in the pews closest to the baptismal font. However, leave the first pew open, because it is reserved for the altar servers.
  - If you need to reserve some pews for your family, ask the ushers for reserved signs to put in the pews.
  - About 10 minutes before the start of Mass, go to the vestibule with your child, and the godparents. The presider (Fr. Kevin or Fr. Paul) will meet you there a few minutes before Mass starts.
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- At the start of Mass, the presider will have you stand in the back of the church, facing the congregation. The presider will invite the congregation to turn to the back.
  - As the Mass begins, the presider will ask you the three introductory questions of the baptismal rite. (What name have you given to your child? What do you ask of God's Church for (your child)? Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?)
  - After the questions addressed to the parents, the presider asks the godparents: "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"
  - The presider then traces the sign of the cross on the child's forehead, and invites the parents and godparents to do the same.
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- Once the introductory portion of the rite is done, the procession begins. The altar-servers will go first.
  - At the presider's cue, the parents and the godparents process down the aisle toward the altar. Walk slowly and solemnly. Make sure to leave enough space between you and the person in front of you. Don't try to catch up with them.
  - As you get close to the steps of the altar area, bow toward the altar.
  - Then move off to the right and take your place in the pew you had selected before Mass.
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- The Liturgy of the Word follows. The congregation hears the readings and the homily. During this time, just participate in the Mass as usual.
  - After the homily, the presider will invite the parents and the godparents to come up to the baptismal font, with the child.
  - Come to the right of the baptismal font (as you are facing it, from the pews).
  - The presider will then lead the parents and godparents in the Renunciation of Sin and the Profession of Faith. The response to each set of questions is, "**I do.**"
  - Note: When there is more than one family, Fr. Paul Pluth has everyone remain in their pews for the Renunciation of Sin and the Profession of Faith, and then invites each family up individually for baptism.

- The baptism itself will now take place. If the baptism is by sprinkling, one of the parents should hold the child over the upper section of the baptismal font. The presider will perform the baptism by pouring water over the child's head. Please make sure that there is nothing on the child head, such as a bow or a hat.
  - If the baptism is by immersion, have your child already undressed and wrapped in a towel by this part of the rite. Place your child in the upper section of the font. The presider will perform the baptism by pouring water over the child.
  - After the baptism by immersion, you will have the chance to dry your child and to dress him or her quickly. Bring a large towel of your own (something white or dark – not bright or with children's designs). We will supply a small towel, but not a large one.
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- Following the baptism, the presider will anoint your child with Chrism oil.
  - After the anointing, the child will be presented with a white garment.
  - The godparents will now be invited to light the baptismal candle from the Paschal Candle. The godparents then present the baptismal candle to the parents. We encourage all families to bring their own baptismal candle, which could be any nice white taper or pillar candle. (In case the family is not able to bring a candle, we do have some that we can supply.)
  - The presentation of the candle will be followed by the Ephphetha, or Prayer Over the Ears and the Mouth.
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- After this, the presider presents the newly baptized child to the congregation. Fr. Kevin and Fr. Paul invite the baptismal families to come to the center of the sanctuary, before the altar.
  - The congregation recognizes the newly baptized child with applause.
  - The parents and godparents are then invited to return to their pews with the child.
  - At this point, make sure to blow out your baptismal candle.
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- Please refrain from photography during the baptism.
  - Both Fr. Kevin and Fr. Paul are available for pictures after the Mass.