

Baptism Procedures

Mary, Queen of Peace

- Please arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the Mass at which the 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. Armando) 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, but don't fall behind either.
 - 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.**"

- The presider will now ask you if it is your will to have your child be baptized.
 - The baptism itself will now take place. If the baptism is by pouring, 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's 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.
 - 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, inviting 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.

Photography Policies:

We ask that you observe the following instructions with regard to photography:

- Please keep photography to a minimum during the liturgy. Each person is invited to participate in the rite, rather than be recording the rite.
- If you do take some pictures, please do so without using a flash. Having the flash go off during the liturgy is extremely distracting for the presider and for the congregation as a whole.
- Please turn off the sound on your camera before the liturgy, so that it doesn't make beeping noises.
- If you are taking pictures, please don't stand in a position that obscures the view of the rest of the congregation. Sitting at the edge of one of the pews close to the baptismal font or standing alongside the wall to the right (as you are facing it) of the font area affords a good angle for picture taking.
- After the liturgy, you are very welcome to take as many pictures as you would like. Fr. Kevin and Fr. Armando are also available to pose with your family.
- Please inform your family and friends attending the baptism about our photography policies.