



North American Martyrs Policy for Baptism of Children

With a long tradition in the Catholic Church, the Baptism of children is an expression of parents' commitment to the faith, as well as a sign of God's love and care for the child. Celebration of the sacrament provides an opportunity for family, loved ones, and members of the community to welcome the child into the Christian community.

The following guidelines will help parents understand what is required in preparing for and celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish:

1. **Call to Celebrate: Baptism**, which consists of three group sessions, is offered for parents seeking to have their infants/children baptized. Through participation in the sessions, parents will explore the meaning and ritual of the sacrament and discern their readiness as a family to celebrate their child's Baptism. It is strongly suggested that parents prepare prior to the birth of their child. Preparation sessions will be led by trained team members during the months of January, May, and September.
2. After completing the program, parents may work with our pastor, Fr. Gee, to set a date for their child's Baptism.
3. The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish is our pastor, Fr. Gee. However, participation in the ceremony by a duly licensed priest or deacon who has special ties to the family is welcomed. Please notify parish staff in advance of the celebration if you would like to have another priest or deacon join in the ceremony to baptize your child.

Please call Joan Sundstrom at 508-798-0612 or e-mail her at namparish@namparish.com to register for the **Call to Celebrate: Baptism** preparation program.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 19-20