



## Pope St. Pius X Baptism Preparation

Congratulations on the arrival of the newest member of your family! We at Pope St. Pius X are honored to assist you in preparing for your child's Baptism.

You have chosen to have your child baptized into the Catholic faith. The decision to have your child baptized must come only after serious reflection. Why? Because Baptism does not end once the ceremony is over. Nor is Baptism something which pertains to your child alone. **YOU ARE INVOLVED.**

Bringing your child to the baptismal font **expresses your commitment to raise the child in the Catholic faith.** This faith needs to be awakened, strengthened and developed as your child matures.

*Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift. . . .  
It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own;  
grace since it is given even to the guilty;  
Baptism because sin is buried in the water;  
anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed;  
enlightenment because it radiates light;  
clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes;  
and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship.* (CCC 1216)



To present your child for baptism is to accept responsibility for the growth of that faith expressed when the Church baptizes. It is to begin the journey, which through Confirmation and Eucharist, will lead to full membership in the Catholic Church.

Catholic Christian parents baptize their child not because it is the custom, but because they sincerely desire that same life for their child. Parents who value their own faith and baptism will want to share the life of Christ which they have inherited. Later, their child's faith will be based on what he/she has learned and experienced in the home and community from the very first days of life.

## Baptism Preparation

Canon Law (866.2) states that before a child is baptized, there must be a "well-rounded hope" that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If after attending Baptism class, parents indicate they are not ready to take on this commitment of raising their child in the Catholic faith, we must postpone the Baptism until "hope" is indeed well founded. If you are unsure of what this commitment means or would like help in better understanding this commitment, we would be happy to assist you.

- 1. Initial Visit** - *this is an opportunity for us to get to know your family.*  
The initial visit includes filling out the Baptism registration form, going over the Baptism preparation program and discussing any details necessary for the Baptism of your child.
- 2. Meet With One of our Mentor Couples**  
A mentor couple from Pope St. Pius X will contact you to invite you into their home for fellowship and to complete Session 1 of the "Reborn" Baptism program. (Please allow 2 - 3 hours.)
- 3. Session at Pope St. Pius X**  
This final visit includes the last 2 sessions from our Baptism preparation program, "Reborn," as well as a short time of reflection. (Please allow 2 hours.)
- 4. Schedule the Baptism**  
Once the above sessions have been completed, the necessary paperwork has been turned in, and parents agree to raise their child in the Catholic faith, the Baptism date can be set.

Baptisms are usually scheduled the 3rd Sunday of each month during the 10:30 am Mass so your child's Baptism can be celebrated with the larger community. If this is inconvenient for your family, we can discuss other possible options.

Since Baptism is initiation into the Catholic Christian community, we strongly urge you to invite your relatives and friends. After the celebration we will record the information and provide you with a Baptism Certificate for your records. *(Please put this certificate someplace for safe keeping as you will need it when your child receives future sacraments.)*

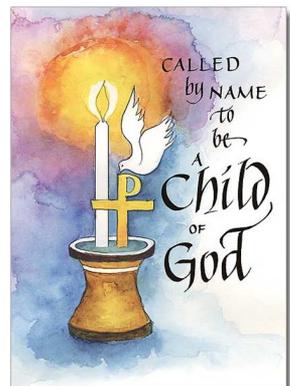
## Selecting Godparents

Canon 874 states that in order for a person to be admitted as a godparent, a person must:

- † be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- † have completed the sixteenth year of age, ...
- † be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- † not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;  
*Note: This indicates that Catholics cohabiting (living together without being married) and Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage are ineligible. Invalid marriages (marriages outside the Church) are those which are not according to Catholic Church regulations.*
- † not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

In addition, Canon 873 indicates that only one godparent is necessary; either male or female. If two godparents are chosen, one must be male and the second one female. There cannot be two godparents of the same sex nor more than two godparents.

Finally, godparents must attend a Baptism class at Pope St. Pius X or, if they attend a class at another parish, they must show a letter stating that they have done so. In addition, each godparent must fill out the Godparent Eligibility Form.



## Parents Discernment Reflection Questions on Readiness

1. Do we have the desire and intention of raising our child in the Catholic faith?
2. Do we accept the teachings of the Catholic faith?
3. Do we attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation? If we don't currently, do we intend to begin the practice?
4. Do we go to Confession regularly (or at least once during the year)?
5. Do we receive the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season?
6. Do we observe the days of fast and abstinence established by the Church?
7. Do we provide for the needs of the Church (time, talent and treasure)?
8. Do we have a prayer life, both personally and as a family?
9. Do we live the Gospel message, especially in service to those in need?
10. Do we attempt to show charity to others, especially those in our family?
11. Do we provide for the religious education of our children?
12. Are we involved in our parish community?

## Helpful Checklist

### Requested Documents:

#### **Infant Baptism Registration Form**

*(typically completed at initial meeting)*

#### **Child's Birth Certificate** *(or Hospital Certificate)*

#### **Signature of Catholic Parent(s) Statement of Intention**

*(back of Infant Baptism Registration Form)*

#### **Godparent Eligibility Form** *(one needed for each godparent)*

#### **Letter of Baptism Class Attended**

*(for godparent(s) who attend a Baptism class outside of St. Pius X)*

#### **Parish Registration Form** *(if applicable)*

**Letter from Pastor of Another Parish** giving permission for child to be baptized at Pope St. Pius X *(only needed if couple is requesting Baptism at Pope St. Pius X, but are registered at another parish)*

### Sessions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Initial Session | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Parish Session   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mentor Session  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Baptism Date Set |

### **Pope St. Pius X Church**

625 E Haycraft Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
(208) 765-5108 • [www.stpiusda.org](http://www.stpiusda.org)