



Baptism

at Saint Edward Catholic Church





Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the birth of your child!

We are so excited to celebrate with you in these days and we pray for years to come at St. Edward's. Children are a special gift from God and we share in this time of joy with you!

Today, as you meet with a member of our parish, you will go over this booklet and take it home with you. Please review it carefully so you can be clear of the ways we can support you in these days and weeks.

Remember, when it comes to the celebration of the sacraments, the Church does not do "event planning". The Church, through the sacraments, does life changing and transformation. By the way you live your lives as Christian parents and your participation in our parish community, you will not only experience God's transforming love, but also be used by Him to transform others.

I ask that you please take some time each day leading up to your child's baptism praying the prayers found at the back of this booklet.

Let us pray for one another in these joy-filled days for you and your family!

Peace -

Father Juan Manjarrez
Pastor

THE **BIGGER** PICTURE

Did you know how awesome and incredible the Church believes the sacrament of Baptism to be? The Church tells us that “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213*). It is from this sacrament that everything builds within and outside of the Church. For in the sacrament of Baptism, in a formal way, we become the beloved of God, a love that carries each one of us in this life and, we pray, leads us one day to eternal life.

We know the sacraments are actions of the Holy Spirit but we each have an important responsibility in this journey. **By requesting baptism, you are taking on the responsibility of raising your son or daughter in the life of the Catholic faith!** This means we’re trying our best to live out our faith - by the choices we make, our commitment to prayer and Sunday Mass, our passion to care for those in need, and our desire to learn more and more about the faith.

THIS NEEDS YOU! We’re pretty sure you are not going to let your child choose exactly what foods they want to eat in these early days. You are going to provide them for him or her. In the years ahead, you’re not going to let your child decide whether they want to go to school or not. You’re going to make sure they go to the best school possible. You are going to direct them. You’re probably going to be and should be careful about who your child becomes friend with? This is good. You must be involved.

The faith life of your child is no different. It needs you actively involved! These are the commitments you make on the day of your child’s baptism. Never fail to accept this responsibility!

It is your responsibility to raise your child in the Catholic faith and help lead them to heaven. As a parent, you want the very best for your child; the best education, the best activities, the best skill sets and the best friends to surround them. So too the very best thing you can hand on to your child is your Catholic Faith. Everything else you can offer them is good and necessary, but only your faith and Christian example will help lead your child to heaven. How beautiful and great is the responsibility of Christian parents!

Maybe you've been away from the Church for a while and your child's Baptism is what is bringing you back to the Church? This is good news! We are so happy you are here! We hope we can grow together in faith in the years ahead. It is never too late to come back home to the Church and renew your relationship with God.

So if you go forward with your child's Baptism, remember the commitment you are making, a commitment to raise your child in the Catholic Faith. Remember, too, that you don't do this alone. You have a family of families at St. Edward's to walk with you in the years ahead.

BAPTISM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Today, you will provide some more information about your child and your family. You will also select the date of your child's baptism. Please note that St. Edward's celebrates baptisms at the following dates and times:

First and Third Saturdays of the Month

English - 9:00 am

Spanish - 10:00 am

We celebrate many baptisms each year in addition to many, many weddings and funerals. Therefore, we can only baptize babies during these times.

If you regularly attend Mass at St. Edward's, you may discuss the possibility of having the baptism of your child celebrated at a Sunday Mass that has been designated accordingly. Truthfully, if we did not have the happy problem of having so many baptisms here, we would try to celebrate all Baptisms at Sunday Mass.

As you complete things today, please make sure the information on the card is accurate. This is the information that will be transferred into the parish permanent baptismal register and used in filling out your child's baptismal certificate.

Online Baptismal Registration Form ->



GETTING READY FOR BAPTISM

The parents of those to be baptized must complete preparation for your child's baptism. Remember the promises you are making here! It is good to take some time to remember what you are committing to in the life of your child.

If you do not attend the baptism preparation session before the date of your child's baptism, the baptism will be postponed.

PARISH REGISTRATION

As part of the baptism ritual, your child is welcomed into the community of faith, symbolized by your parish community of St. Edward's. As the sacrament makes us members of the Body of Christ, the Church, baptism find its fulfillment when the baptized person lives his or her faith as an active member of the community. For this reason, children are baptized into the parish church proper to their parents.

If you are new to our community and want to become part of St. Edward's, we would love to have you. Today, you will be asked to complete a Parish Registration Form. This will allow us to get to know you better and enable us to better serve you.

If the parents of a child belong to another parish, this is the parish where the baptism should take place, not St. Edward's.

GODPARENTS

The role of godparents (also referred to as sponsors) are witnessing to THEIR OWN faith and a reaffirmation of their own baptism faith in Jesus Christ. Godparents are chosen with care because they, by their lifestyle and example, will be among the first role models of the Catholic faith to your child.

The Catholic Church requires that godparents must be:

- 16 years of age or older
- Fully initiated (meaning they have received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation)
- Actively involved in the faith life of their parish (attending Mass, offering their time and talent, etc.)

If a godparent is married, he/she must be married in the Catholic Church according to the Rite of Marriage.

Only one godparent is required at the sacrament of Baptism. If there are two, one must be male and the other female.

A baptized non-Catholic may act as a sponsor along with one Catholic godparent. Technically, this person is called a “Christian Witness” not a godparent.

Remember, too, that once the baptism has taken place, it is impossible to change your child’s godparent, so choose carefully.

MARRIAGE

Catholics are in a valid marriage if their ceremony took place according to the Roman Catholic Ritual presided over by a Catholic priest or deacon with two witnesses.

Catholics are also validly married in some other way with the permission of the Catholic Church, namely if they received some form of dispensation from the Bishop of their diocese. In all other cases involving one or more Catholic spouses – being married before some other minister, by a justice of the peace, or in a catering hall, for example – their marriage is not recognized by the Church, that is it is invalid.

Whatever your marriage situation is, it does not hinder your child being baptized in the Catholic Church. That being said, the Baptism of your child is a wonderful reason to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage and get married in the Church. We love weddings at St. Edward’s! It is probably a lot easier than you think! Remember, that you as parents are taking the responsibility upon yourselves to raise your child in the Catholic faith and children learn first and foremost by example.

OFFERING

There is no fee or price for any of the Sacraments of the Church, including Baptism. The Church does request an offering at the time of Baptism as it help to sustain and support the many works and ministries that take place at St. Edward's.

There is no set amount for an offering. One suggestion might be to consider how much you are spending on a celebration following the liturgy. We do not have a specific amount but recommend—in the spirit of tithing—that if you are having a reception after the Baptism to offer the church 10% of that amount (see Numbers 18:26). A minimum suggested offering is \$150.00.

THE DAY OF BAPTISM

On the day of your child's Baptism, you are asked to arrive 15 minutes early. This allows everyone to get settled in and for the celebration of the Baptism to begin promptly and in calm fashion. Please be sure to tell your family members and friends to do the same. Please remember that there will be other families who will be having their children baptized on that day too and it would not be fair to them to be delayed. Feel free to invite as many people as you would like, it is a great cause for celebration!

Everyone at the Baptism should focus fully, consciously and actively on the liturgical celebration. This means dressing appropriately (i.e. no shorts, sneakers, t-shirts, short dresses, bare shoulders, etc.). If you are wondering whether or not something is ok to wear, play it safe!

Also, pictures are not allowed during the celebration of the Baptism. You will have all the time in the world after the Baptism to take pictures in the church and the priest or deacon who is presiding at the Baptism will be more than happy to take pictures with you and bless any items you may wish to have blessed!

Remember that you are in a sacred space, therefore your actions should reflect that reality. Conversations should be kept to a strict minimum so as to preserve silence in the church building. You are invited to take home the baptismal garment and candle that will be given to your child on the day of their Baptism as a keepsake and reminder of the day. Some families even preserve these in shadowboxes to be displayed in their homes to help them better remember the gift of their child's

THE POST-BAPTISM

A sacramental certificate is mailed to you shortly after the Baptism takes place. PLEASE CHECK THIS CAREFULLY. If there is an error or a misspelling, please let us know as quickly as possible.

And now ... what are you going to do here at St. Edward's as the family of a newly baptized?

- Come to Mass!
- Learn more about Faith Formation at St. Edward's!
- Support and/or allow our Parish Outreach to help you
- And more and more!

Visit www.stedwardchurchlr.org today!



Prayers for Your Child

Thanksgiving for a Newborn or Newly Adopted Young Child

God, our Creator, cherish this child.
Jesus, our Savior; protect him/her.
Holy Spirit, our comforter, strengthen him/her.

or:

Source of all blessings, protector of infants,
look with favor on this child, N.
Hold him/her gently in your hands.
When he/she is reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
bring him/her into the Church,
there to share in your kingdom
and with us to bless your name forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

The parents trace the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.

N., may the Lord Jesus, who loved children,
bless you and keep you in his love,
now and forever.

R/. Amen

Parents' Thanksgiving

O God, we give you thanks for N.
Whom you have welcomed into our family.
Bless our family.
Confirm a lively sense of your presence with us
And grant us patience and wisdom,
That our lives may show forth the love of Christ
As we bring N. up to love all that is good.
Through Christ our Lord.
Blessing on Bringing a Child Into the Home
Good Lord,
You have tenderly love us,
And given us this home and good friends.
May we make a true home for this child
Where he/she will learn trust in us and in you.
(May his/her brothers and sisters rejoice
In their own growing up as they help to care for this child.
Through Christ our Lord.

Mother's Blessing of the Child When Nursing or Feeding

God,
You are like a mother to us all,
Nourishing all creatures with food and with blessing.
Strengthen my child with (my milk/this food)
And with the warmth of our nearness
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The foundation of the family is the marriage bond
between the mother, father, and God.

If you have a strong marriage,
it will produce a strong family that can endure the challenges
they will face throughout their lives.

*Gentlemen, take your bride's hands,
place them together and wrap your own hands around them.
Pray these words together.*

Marriage Prayer

**Lord, help us to remember when we first met
and the strong love that grew between us.**

**To work that love into practical things
So that nothing can divide us.**

**We ask for words both kind and loving
and hearts always ready to ask for forgiveness
as well as to forgive.**

Dear Lord, we put our marriage into Your hands.

Amen

Including this prayer into your nightly family prayers
allows your children to see that you place your marriage into God's hands.
As they begin to memorize it, hopefully they will one day
incorporate it into their own marriages as well
and pass it down through the generations.



We must reawaken the memory of our Baptism. We are called to live out our Baptism every day as the present reality of our lives. If we manage to follow Jesus and to remain in the Church, despite our limitations and with our weaknesses and our sins, it is precisely in the Sacrament whereby we have become new creatures and have been clothed in Christ. It is by the power of Baptism, in fact, that, freed of original sin, we are inserted into Jesus' relation to God the Father; that we are bearers of a new hope, for Baptism gives us this new hope: the hope of going on the path of salvation our whole life long. And this hope nothing and no one can extinguish, for it is a hope that does not disappoint. Remember, hope in the Lord never disappoints.

- Pope Francis



**St. Edward Church
Shrine of Divine Mercy**

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