

Saint Bonaventure Baptism Ministry

Congratulations! We are looking forward to welcoming your child into the Christian Catholic community through Baptism. We share in your excitement and that of your family, friends, and child's godparents. Soon your child will be marked with the sign of the cross and welcomed as a member of God's family.

We provide a parent meeting and a parent/godparent class that explains the life of faith, the Church, and the sacrament. To prepare for your child's Baptism, consider your position in the Christian/Catholic community and in your own life. Do you look to the Church as your own family in faith? Through Baptism you are agreeing to raise your child in the Catholic faith and provide for his/her education in the Catholic religion. You will help your child prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. How do you choose godparents who will be active in helping your child grow as a son or daughter of God?

Infant Baptism Information

Parents requesting Baptism at St. Bonaventure should be registered parishioners or residents of Huntington Beach living within the parish boundaries.

Parents must attend the initial parent meeting and the preparation class. St. Bonaventure offers these as follows:

1. **Initial Parent Meeting:** Short half an hour meeting scheduled on a Thursday evening with members on the baptismal team and must be taken **prior** to the class. **Team member will assist you in filling out and submitting the baptism registration form during the initial parent meeting.** Please schedule your meeting using the following e-mail address: **SaintBonaventureBaptism@gmail.com**
2. **Preparation Class:** Held on one Saturday of each month from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

Sponsors/Godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class; if the godparents are out of the area, they may attend a preparation class at their home parish. If a preparation class is taken at another parish a certificate of class completion must be provided to Saint Bonaventure two weeks prior to the baptism. Registration is not required for the classes. There is no charge for the baptism preparation classes.

Selection of a date for baptism is not confirmed until the above requirements are completed by both parents and godparent/s.

Register for your initial parent meeting as soon as possible as baptism dates fill up quickly. The ages for infant baptism are from birth through six years of age.

After the 7th birthday, the child should be prepared through our School of Religious Education. The Religious Education office can be reached at (714) 846-1187.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN BEING BAPTIZED AT SAINT BONAVENTURE

- For children from birth through age 6.
- Available for registered members of Saint Bonaventure or residents of Huntington Beach living within our parish boundaries.
- Parents are required to meet with members of the Baptism Team. These initial parent meetings are held on Thursday evenings. After the initial meeting, parents must attend a Baptism preparation class which is held on one Saturday of each month at 1PM. The class is approximately 2 hours and no child care is provided.
- Dates and Times; Parents can sign up for a date for baptism only after meeting with Baptism Team members. The date will be confirmed after all class requirements have been fulfilled.
- The Rite of Baptism is held one Saturday of the month at 10AM.
- Sponsors/Godparents are required to attend one Baptism preparation class, the Saint Bonaventure Class is on one Saturday of the month.
- Free will donations are accepted and very much appreciated.
- **If you need further information, please contact Kim of the baptism ministry at SaintBonaventureBaptism@gmail.com**

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES 1PM-3PM Parish Center Meeting Room		RITE OF INFANT BAPTISM Saturday 10AM	
Date	Presenter	Date	Presider
January 14, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	January 14, 2023	Deacon TBD
February 11, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	February 11, 2023	Deacon TBD
March 11, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	March 11, 2023	Deacon TBD
April 15, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	April 15, 2023 (English/Spanish)*	Deacon TBD
May 13, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	May 13, 2023	Deacon TBD
June 10, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	June 10, 2023	Deacon TBD
July 8, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	July 8, 2023 (English/Spanish)*	Deacon TBD
August 12, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	August 12, 2023	Deacon TBD
September 9, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	September 9, 2023	Deacon TBD
October 7, 2023 *Festival Weekend*	Baptism Ministry Team via Zoom	October 7, 2023 *Festival Weekend*	Deacon TBD
November 11, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	November 11, 2023	Deacon TBD
December 9, 2023	Baptism Ministry Team	December 9, 2023	Deacon TBD
January 13, 2024	Baptism Ministry Team	January 13, 2024	Deacon TBD
February 10, 2024	Baptism Ministry Team	February 10, 2024	Deacon TBD
March 9, 2024	Baptism Ministry Team	March 9, 2024	Deacon TBD

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The Role of Sponsor (Godparent)

To be chosen as a sponsor is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship that will last throughout this life and beyond. Your role is to be supportive of your godchild's parents in their responsibilities as the primary religious educators of their child.

Sponsors are called to model the life of an active Catholic adult to the child. The sponsors must be:

- Practicing Catholic
- Received the Eucharist
- At least 16 years of age
- Baptized
- Confirmed
- If married, their marriage must be blessed through the Sacrament of Matrimony

Practicing Christians from **non-Catholic** traditions who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity may serve as Christian Witnesses. A Christian Witness is not a baptized Catholic. Please confer with the baptism team if you have a question about this.

There are many ways you can nourish this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Some ideas for a godparent are:

- Celebrate the holy day of baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life. Keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Participate and let the child know he/she is in your prayers as the godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith with best wishes and prayers through special letters, cards, and/or gifts which celebrate holy events such as Christmas and Easter and other personal growth events such as graduation, first job, and engagement.
- Some gift ideas godparents like to send/give: a children's Bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods, books, or retreat opportunities.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, become a model of Christian living for your godchild by living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, through daily prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

If you need further information, please contact the baptism ministry at SaintBonaventureBaptism@gmail.com

On the day of Baptism

This celebration is the Rite of Baptism; it is not a Mass.

The Rite of Infant Baptism is administered **usually** on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Parents and godparents are asked to be at the church (beginning in July 2018 – the hall) at least 30 minutes before the hour. They are asked to check in with a team member in the church/hall when they arrive. Team members will confirm the correct pronunciation of the child's name and ask what saint name you have chosen for your child.

There will be name signs on the rows of chairs for family seating. Each family is assigned 2 rows. Overflow guests should use the side rows. Please let your family and guests know that seating arrangements have been made in advance. You may include as many guests at the baptism as you desire. There is always plenty of room.

Parents, child, and sponsors are to assemble as a group to begin the ceremony. Baptism team members will instruct everyone where to assemble. Mother or father should hold the child, while the godparent(s) stand(s) behind the parents. All other family members and guests should be seated in the appropriate rows.

Family and guests need to leave four spaces at the inside end of the center aisle of the family row for seating of the parents and sponsors.

Your entire family and guests will be invited to join you at the Baptismal Font during the child's baptism. After the child is baptized, return by the side aisle to your assigned rows.

Pictures, including video, may be taken and are encouraged. However, we ask you to keep a reverent attitude toward the ceremony at all times.

Remember to obtain the Certificate of Baptism before you leave.

Free will donations for Baptisms are accepted and very much appreciated.

Your Baptismal Team is looking for people to join in this rewarding ministry. Consider this your invitation to share this exciting sacrament with parents, family and friends of children to be baptized in our parish community. Please contact Kim Beam at SaintBonaventureBaptism@gmail.com if you are interested.