



Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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Dear Parents,

As pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, I want to congratulate you on this happy occasion of preparing for your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

There are specific requirements for parents and Godparents determined by Holy Mother Church and adhered to by the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento that must be completed prior to your child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. The Good Shepherd Parish office staff has developed the information in this letter, as well as the enclosed "Godparents' Information Sheet", to assist you in completing these requirements. Please know that we are committed to helping you at this important time in the child's Catholic faith formation and sacramental life.

For **parents** requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their child at Good Shepherd Church, the following are required:

- Registered in Good Shepherd Parish
- Attending Sunday Mass
- Practicing the faith
- Completing the enclosed "Baptismal Information" form for permanent church records
- **Attending a Good Shepherd Parish's Baptism preparation class**
 - The preparation class is held the second Monday evening of the month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Good Shepherd (you will be informed of the location when you register for the class)
 - **Please register for the class through the Parish Office.**
 - The exception to attending this class is if the parents can provide proof of having attended a Sacrament of Baptism Preparation class within the last two years.

Regarding **Godparents**, at least one must meet the Diocesan regulation of being Catholic, meaning he/she has received the Sacraments of initiation (including Confirmation), married in the church (if applicable), attends church regularly, and is at least 16 years of age. Please refer to the enclosed "Godparents' Information Sheet" for more details on what Godparents are expected to complete prior to the Baptism date.

Baptisms are held monthly at Good Shepherd Church on the second and fourth Saturday mornings at 10:00 with the exception of during the Season of Lent when no Baptisms are scheduled. Your child's Baptism will be scheduled once you have completed the preparation class. To avoid any misunderstandings **we recommend** that no arrangements be made for the date of the Baptism until the class requirement is completed.

If at any time a need to change the date occurs, please know that the staff will work with you to re-schedule the best possible day for your child's Baptism.

The **Baptism fee** is \$25.00 for the couple only, which covers the cost of your book, candle, holy water, symbolic garment, certificate, and class preparation. The fee, along with the completed "Baptismal Information" form can be turned in when you attend the preparation class. Couples often want to donate an additional "love offering" to the parish in gratitude for all that the volunteers in the Baptism Ministry do to assure each child and family have a spiritually beautiful experience. Should you desire to make such an offering you will have the opportunity to do so the day of the Baptism.

Lastly, we ask that on the Saturday morning of the scheduled Baptism that you, the child, and the Godparents arrive inside Good Shepherd Church no later than 9:45. This allows time for you to check in with the Baptism Coordinator and get settled in order to help the ceremony start at 10:00.

The Sacrament of Baptism initiates your child into the Faith Community of Good Shepherd Parish. On behalf of myself, Father Lester Menor, Deacons Ed Smith and Bill Souza, and the parish office staff, I welcome you and invite you to worship with us as a family on a regular basis. We encourage all families to get involved in the spiritual life of the parish.

If there is any special circumstance you may have surrounding your child's Baptism, or questions not answered in this letter or enclosed material, please contact the parish office so we can assist you at this cherished time in the life of your child and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Father Leon Juchniewicz
Pastor, Good Shepherd Parish