

Points to Consider

- Why Baptism for my child? Why is it important?
- What is the message of the Falling Plates video?
 - How does it apply to me?
 - What is my response to the message?
- What is the Message of the Epidemic video?
 - How does it apply to me and my family?
- What are some practical ways I can impart faith to my children?

Father, I believe that You know me and love me.

I have not always chosen to love You,
and have broken my relationship with You through my sins.

Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus who proved Your
love for me on the cross.

Lord Jesus, I open the door of my heart and I invite You to
be at the center of my life — to be my Saviour and my Lord.

Direct me by Your Holy Spirit
and help me to live the Gospel with my whole life.

Blessed Sacrament Parish
194 Fourth Ave
Ottawa, ON K1S 2L6
Phone: 613-232-4891
Email: office@blessedsacrament.ca

BLESSED SACRAMENT



PARISH



Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your baby and the decision to have your child baptized! The very fact that you have asked to have your child baptized shows that you recognize the importance of God in your own lives and that you seek to pass on the gift of faith.

Through the new life of baptism we become children of God, members of the Body of Christ — which is the Church, God purifies us from sin, and we receive the Holy Spirit. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity throughout our life.

By choosing baptism, you place your child in the hands of God and commit him/her to the loving care of Jesus Christ and His Mother Mary. Additionally, you accept the responsibility of teaching your child in the lifelong practice of the faith.

We pray that God will bless you and your family as you continue to be Disciples of Christ.



Signs and Symbols

WATER:

Water, as we know, is a substance that gives life and cleanses. Therefore, the water symbolizes the new life of Christ and the washing away of sin within the soul of the child.



THE CROSS:



The Cross is the most universal and recognizable Christian symbol. During the Baptismal Rite, the Cross reminds us of the victory won over sin and death and the immensity of Christ's love for us through His suffering, death and resurrection. Also, it is through the Cross that we become sons and daughters of the Father and heirs to the Kingdom.

OIL:

The oil used to anoint the child strengthens and protects them in life's journey and against the power of evil. As "anointed" ones, they are ready to confront the world, live in it and transform it. The anointing with oil is a powerful sign that they are consecrated to Christ.



LIGHT:



The baptismal candle is lit to remind us of the flame of faith ignited within your child and that with the help of God you are to keep their faith burning brightly. It is also a reminder that your child has been enlightened with the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom.

The Role of Godparents

To be chosen as a Godparent is a special honour. 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 — one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your Godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this 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, and keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts which celebrate holy events ... Christmas, Easter... and personal growth events ... graduation, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a Bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/ books, retreat opportunities.)
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your Godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of your Godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your Godchild, through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your Godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

What do I need to know beforehand?

What should my child wear?

Typically babies wear white for their baptism. On occasion, older children do not wear white. Please feel free to dress your child however you wish. There is no set garment.

What time should I arrive?

Please arrive at the Church 15 minutes before Mass starts. There will be pews reserved (up to 3 rows) for you and your guests at the front of the Church on the right hand side, marked with signs. Each pew seats 10 to 12 people. A volunteer will call you the week of the baptism to ask how many rows you require.

May I take photos?

You are welcome, and encouraged, to take photos or videos of the actual Baptism. However, we ask that no one enters into the sanctuary except for the Parents, Godparents and child. Photos may be taken from the communion rail (with the congregation) and from the pews.

What about siblings?

Siblings are more than welcome to come into the sanctuary with you, but it is not required. This is a personal preference.

What if my child is fussing?

If your child is restless, please feel free to move and walk down the side of the Church. However, we do ask that you remain alert and prepared for the when the priest calls you and your child up to the sanctuary.

Where can we park?

Unfortunately, Blessed Sacrament Parish does not have a parking lot. Please ensure that you have enough time to get into the Church while using street parking.

What will happen at my child's Baptism?

Reception of the Child:

The priest will ask the Parents:

- "What name do you give your child?" *Please say the given names only.*
- "What are you asking of God's Church for your child?" *Baptism.*
- "You have asked for child to be baptized. Do you understand what you are undertaking?" *Yes!*

The priest will ask the Godparents:

- "Are you willing to help the Parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?" *Yes!*

Signing of the Child with the Cross:

The priest will make a Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead and will invite you and the Godparents to do the same.

Liturgy of the Word:

Whether baptisms are celebrated within Mass or outside of Mass, readings are proclaimed, a homily is given and intercessions are prayed. After the priest's homily/intercessions the Parents, Godparents and child to be baptized will be called forward into the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

Oil of Catechumens:

The priest will make the Sign of the Cross on the top of your child's chest with oil. We ask that you slightly loosen any tight necklines on your child's clothing so the priest can place the oil in the correct area.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith:

Renunciation of sin and profession of faith is presented in a series of questions. The response is: *"I do."*

You will renew the vows of your own baptism by rejecting sin and professing your own faith in Christ Jesus.

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Baptism:

You will be asked to hold your child's head over the baptismal font where the priest will pour water over their head three times saying "I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". For older children, a step stool will be made available to stand on.

Chrism Oil:

The priest will make the Sign of the Cross with oil on the top of your child's head. The anointing seals the child with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Baptismal Garment:

White is used in Baptism as a sign of innocence and new life. The Church provides a white garment that is placed around your child's shoulders by one of the Godparents during the ceremony.

Candle:

The priest will give the candle to one of the Godparents. Please light the baptismal candle from the Easter Candle. The candle and the stole provided by the Church are yours to keep. Use your child's baptismal candle to celebrate the anniversary of their baptism.

Baptismal Certificate:

You receive your child's Baptismal Certificate on the day of the Baptism. Additionally the Godparents receive a card outlining their role in the life of the child.

