



St. Ignatius Catholic Church

3400 S.E. 43rd Avenue, Portland Oregon 97206

Fall 2018

Dear Parents,

Greetings from St. Ignatius Parish! What a delight to have your child become part of the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray that this time for you and your child may be steeped in love, wisdom and compassion, and that you may feel the grace of God as it sustains your daily endeavors.

Before the baptism conferral, we ask you attend one of the Baptism classes outlined in the Baptismal schedule. In this gathering, you will have a chance to connect with other parents as you learn about the Sacrament of Baptism. This session will allow time for you to share your own experience and ask questions about this Sacrament or the Church in general. We recognize that oftentimes both parents may not be Catholic, and a spouse or partner may desire more clarity.

As you prepare for the parent session, we invite you to reflect on the following questions:

- What experiences in my daily life manifest the presence of God?
- How do I nurture my own faith and plan to nurture my child(ren) likewise?
- Why am I seeking to have my child baptized in the Catholic Church at St. Ignatius Parish?

What arises in you as you read the following scripture?

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” Jeremiah 1:5

“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped before one came to be.” Psalm 139:13-16

An important aspect of preparation involves choosing godparents—the adults who will support you and your child as you raise the in the Christian faith. Parents often choose two godparents, but this Sacrament requires only one Catholic godparent. Because of the significance of this role, please choose a godparent you consider worthy and exemplar. Catholic godparents would be active in their faith, fully initiated (themselves having the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and in good standing in their parish community. If you would like to choose a second godparent who is from another Christian tradition, they are welcome to serve as a Christian witness to the Baptism. Godparents are encouraged to join you for the Baptism class and orientation as they also prepare for their new role, but we realize this might not always be possible if they do not live in the area.

Grace Byrd

Please complete and return the Infant Baptism Registration Form as soon as possible and indicate which class you choose to attend from the calendar. If you have questions on any detail, please contact Grace Byrd at gbyrd@sipdx.org or call 503.777.1491 ext. 238. Our pastoral team is honored to accompany your family during this preparation process, and we look forward to celebrating this first Sacrament of Initiation with you and your child.

Blessing,

Grace Byrd
Grace Byrd, Faith Formation Director