

Baptismal Preparation

A few years ago, a revised ritual for the Order of Baptism of Children was received by the Church in the United States. An introduction accompanied the text emphasizing the importance of preparation for Baptism. It states, "Preparation for Baptism and Christian instruction are of the highest concern for the People of God, that is, for the Church, which hands on and nourishes the faith received from the Apostles."

For the past few years, Lisa Fullenkamp managed Baptismal preparation. She diligently met with parents, educating them on the significance of Baptism, the responsibilities of Godparents, and the Baptismal ritual. Following her retirement, **Father Hoying has graciously agreed to lead our Baptismal preparation class.** We are fortunate to have his willingness to undertake this task and share the profound meaning and significance of Baptism with the parents. His dedication to the Church's Faith will undoubtedly enhance the experience for all attendees.

Previously Baptismal preparation occurred at various times, when convenient. Fr. Hoying prefers to have a stable rhythm to the preparation. Therefore, **it will occur monthly on Sunday afternoons at Immaculate Conception.** To begin the process for Baptismal preparation, you will still call the parish office.

When discussing the content of the class, we noticed how much emphasis the Church puts on preparation for Baptism, as evidenced by the quote at the beginning of this article. Baptism is a life-changing moment for both children and parents. The preparation for Baptism recognizes this importance. Therefore, **all parents will be required to attend a Baptismal preparation class**, whether this is their first child or they already have multiple children. Of course, if one parent is not in the picture, or there are other challenges, both parents won't be required to attend. Only the parent that is raising the child will be obligated to attend.

The goal isn't to make more hoops to jump through, but rather to invite all parents to experience the power of Baptism and thank God for the gift of this new child. Previously only first-time parents were required to attend. This policy may change in the future, but for now, I am asking all parents who are presenting a child for baptism to attend the Baptismal preparation class.

This adjustment doesn't affect every parishioner. Many reading this are not presenting children for Baptism. However, you can pray for all parents. Pray that they may raise their children in the love of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Parenting is a difficult task, and may our parents persevere with hope and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Sean