

Baptism Information Booklet



St. Isaac Jogues Church

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BAPTISMAL INFORMATION FOR ST. ISAAC JOGUES CHURCH

The day of Baptism is a great day for your child and your family. Your child joins a large family of faith which stretches back to the Lord Jesus and his early followers. The word that comes to mind when thinking of you and your child is “gift.” The Lord has shared the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the living waters of Baptism. The child is also given the power to believe, to hope, and, above all, to love. Baptisms occurs only once in the life of a Christian. It is the beginning of the journey that leads to everlasting life with God.

The Lord delights in your choice to share the gift of divine life with your child. As parents you are simply irreplaceable. Your role of sharing and cultivating the life of Jesus in your child is a great privilege and opportunity. Studies have shown that the parents have a major role in cultivating the faith life of their children.

Know that your efforts to share your faith have been incredibly important. Parents are partners with the Lord in the journey of believing. We, too, wish to work with you as your Church family. We want to be partners in your child’s faith development, assisting you in any way we can. We hope that you will find St. Isaac Jogues a parish where we can all grow together in faith, hope, and love.

We hope that the following guidelines will assist you as you prepare for Baptism.

1. Non-registered families living outside of the boundaries of St. Isaac Jogues parish will be referred and encouraged to be involved in their own parish’s baptismal preparation and administration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
2. We ask that families living within the boundaries of St. Isaac Jogues register with us if they have not yet had the opportunity to do so. It is a special joy to welcome new members to our Christian family.
3. Registered members of St. Isaac Jogues parish follow the listed requirements:
 - a. At least one parent should be a practicing Catholic who participates in the sacramental life of the Church. If you are returning to the practice of the faith, please know that we want to help you feel welcome in any way we can. Any member of our staff would be happy to talk with you or assist you in any way that is helpful to your needs.

b. Parents, please fill out the enclosed Baptism Information Form, at least the information about the parents, and return it to the parish office **three (3) months prior to the anticipated date of the baptism**. Then you will be notified about the date of the next Baptism Parent Preparation Class which both parents must attend before scheduling the baptism date.

c. One of the important decisions you, as parents, will make is the choice of godparents for your baby. These godparents should help and support you in bringing up your child in our Catholic faith. The godparents will also be role models for your child in living our faith. The role of a godparent is not an honorary one; it is truly a spiritual role.

Only one male or female is needed as a godparent. The godparent must be a practicing Catholic, at least 16 years old, who has received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). Many parents choose two godparents—a godmother and a godfather. A baptized Christian of another faith tradition may serve as a “Christian witness” to the baptism along with the Catholic godparent. Godparents may never be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

The Church expects that the chosen godparent(s) will be present at your baby’s baptism. However, if this is not possible, a proxy may be used. The proxy must be appointed by the godparent. Please be sure to give the parish office the name of the proxy for the parish records. Should you need a proxy, a simple solution is to ask one of the grandparents.

4. No set of guidelines can cover all sets of circumstances. If you have any questions or wish to have something clarified, please call Sr. Pat at the parish office, 410-661-4888, or e-mail ptryon@sij.org.

Baptism Schedule (except during Lent): The Church’s preferred time for baptisms is at Sunday Mass. Baptism establishes a relationship between your child and the parish community, which is symbolized in a powerful way by celebrating the baptism at Mass where the parish can welcome your child into our faith community. **Baptisms are scheduled during Mass on the second weekend of every month at a time announced prior to the actual date. Baptisms can also be scheduled on the fourth Sunday of every month at 1:15 p.m.** If for some reason another time must be arranged, or if a visiting clergyman is requested, arrangements can be made with one of the clergy staff.