

**BAPTISMAL INFORMATION
ST. ISAAC JOGUES CHURCH
9215 Old Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
410-661-4888; fax 410-882-1484
www.sij.org**

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. Your child is also given the power to believe, to hope, and, above all, to love. Baptism 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.

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 are encouraged to be involved in their own parish’s baptismal preparation and administration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
2. If you are a member of another parish, a letter of permission from your pastor must be sent to us in order for the Baptism to be celebrated at St. Isaac Jogues. Such permission may be obtained by contacting the office of your home parish.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. Parents are asked to call the Parish Office 4-6 weeks in advance to schedule both the preparation class and the baptism date.
6. One of the important decisions you, as parents, will make is the choice of godparents for your baby. 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.
 - One of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic, at least 16 years old, who has received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).
 - 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.
7. No set of guidelines can cover all sets of circumstances. If you have any questions or wish to have something clarified, please call the Parish Office at 410-661-4888 or e-mail jgier@sij.org.

Baptism Schedule (except during Lent): Baptisms are scheduled on the fourth Sunday of every month at 12:30 p.m., and during Mass on the second weekend of every month. If another time must be arranged, or if a visiting clergyman is requested, please contact the Parish Office at 410-661-4888.