

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH



Baptism of Children

**St. Margaret Mary Church
12686 Central Ave
Chino, California 91710
(909) 591-7400**

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE ASKING TO HAVE YOUR CHILD

BAPTIZED! When parents seek Baptism for their children, they are saying their faith is something that they treasure and want to pass on.

In Baptism we are adopted into Christ's body, the Church, and given the power to call God "Father" by the Holy Spirit living inside us. As part of Christ's body your child, and all the baptized, receive spiritual gifts to live a life that is noble, kind and merciful to others.

Our Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of this new life in Christ. This is why the parents (at least one of them) must be believers who are ready and willing to help their children to practice the faith. Our preparation sessions, held monthly, are offered to help parents and godparents to understand their mission to help form their children into Christians.

CHECKLIST FOR BAPTISM

_____ Consider the importance of *Baptism*, and what is expected of you as parents and godparents. Baptism is a public commitment to serve the Lord and others in the context of the Catholic church. Do you desire to live a lifestyle that reflects Catholic faith and beliefs?

_____ Select godparents that will be a positive Catholic influence in the life of your little one.

_____ Participate in the *Baptismal Preparation Process*.

Ordinarily those baptized here are children of St. Margaret Mary parish. Others may also be baptized at St. Margaret Mary for a good reason.

Please feel free to call the Parish Office with any questions (909) 591-7400. Office open Monday through Thursday 8am to 5pm and Friday 8am to 12pm.

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROCESS

1. Once you've read this brochure and made sure baptism of your child is what you want, call the office to make an appointment and fill out the Baptism Registration Form (form is also available on parish website). Please bring your child's original birth certificate from the county. At this time, the Stewardship donation of \$50.00 is given. (*If this is a financial hardship, it can be waived.*)
2. Select a good time for parents and godparents (siblings and grandparents too, if you like) to gather in your home to watch the video "Your Baby's baptism" together (To watch the video, go to our parish website simmchino.org and go to **Core Beliefs, Sacraments**, then **Baptism** and **baptismal videos**.)
3. Once you've watched the video together, say an *Our Father* and share the following questions one at a time. (*it's important that everyone say something*):
 - 1) Share a time in your life when you felt God's love very strongly.
 - 2) What is something about the Catholic Faith you particularly like or appreciate?
 - 3) Who do you know that you consider a very good Catholic?
 - 4) Why is baptizing this little one important to you?
 - 5) Parents, tell your godparents why you chose them for your child.
4. Once you've completed steps 1 through 3, you're ready to call the church office to be included in the **Baptism celebration!!**
5. Once you've had your parent-godparent get-together (step #3), parents and god-parents attend a pre-baptism gathering (usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm). Everyone will have a chance to share their answer to question # 4 (why is baptism for your little one important to you?) and there will be a brief time for questions & answers. (Please call early in the week to make sure we'll be gathering)

****sometimes parents or godparents live at a distance from each other and can't gather for steps #2 & #3. In such cases, please invite 2 adults you consider good practicing Catholics to "stand in" and share the discussion.***

CODE OF CANON LAW - (Spells out the Church's directives for Baptism)

CHAPTER I: THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Can. 851 The celebration of baptism should be properly prepared. Accordingly:

2° the parents of a child who is to be baptized, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsors, are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attaching to it.

The parish priest is to see to it that either he or others duly prepare the parents, by means of pastoral advice and indeed by prayer together; a number of families might be brought together for this purpose and, where possible, each family visited.

Can. 855 Parents, sponsors and parish priests are to take care that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.

CHAPTER III: THE PERSONS TO BE BAPTIZED

Can. 867 §1 Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it.

Can. 868 §1 For an infant to be baptized lawfully it is required:

1° that the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent;

2° that **there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion.**

If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. (*Emphasis added.*)

CHAPTER IV: SPONSORS

Can. 872 In so far as possible, a person being baptized is to be assigned a sponsor ... in the case of an infant baptism, the role is together with the parents to present the child for baptism, and to help the child to live a Christian life befitting the baptized and faithfully to fulfill the duties inherent in baptism.

Can. 873 One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex.

Can. 874 §1 To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:

1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;

2° be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;

3° be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and **who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken** (*emphasis added*);

4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;

5° not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized.

§2 A baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, Before you were born I dedicated you! (*Jeremiah 1:4*)