

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church
4600 Hyland Ave San Jose, CA 95127
(408) 258-7832 FAX (408) 258-6152

****To help you better understand our Infant Baptism policy and process,
Please read the information below **BEFORE** completing and submitting paperwork ****

Congratulations, Welcome to the liturgy of baptism. Together, we will help make celebrating your child's baptism an affirming experience for you as a Catholic parent and welcome you to our parish family.

All sacraments require preparation. These are the following guidelines from our pastor. Please read them carefully and if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 408-258-7832.

- ❖ Infant baptisms are for children up to age six (6). If your child is seven (7) years of age or older, please contact the Parish Office.
- ❖ You must have at least one Godparent for each child to be baptized. Under Canon Law (Church law),
a Godparent must be a practicing Catholic, who is at least 16 years of age and has received all three Sacraments of Initiation: **Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist**. A second witness, who does not meet these criteria but is baptized in the Christian faith, may be listed as a Christian Witness on the baptismal records.
- ❖ Both parents and all Godparents/Christian Witnesses must complete a pre-baptism class prior to setting a baptism date. We will accept a certificate from another parish's pre-baptism program as proof of attending a class. There is no need to repeat the class if a person has attended a pre-baptism class within the last 2 years, however, proof of class participation ***must*** still be provided to us.
 - We do not have childcare available at pre-baptism classes; please do not bring children to the class.
- ❖ **All forms, including proof of baptism class, must be submitted BEFORE a baptism date can be chosen.**
 - In case of adoption, the child's birth certificate and proof of adoption are also required for paperwork.
- ❖ For Baptism fees, please call the Parish Office. The baptismal fees must accompany the paperwork submission.

Baptism Classes are held on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of each month in the Community Center.

❖ *Prior registration is required*

For availability of Baptismal dates please call the Parish Office
at **(408) 258-7832**

*****NO BAPTISMS DURING THE LENT SEASON*****

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Baptism FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

† I want to baptize my baby. What do I do?

- Before reserving a baptism date, **ALL** paperwork must be completed and submitted, and **ALL** parents and godparents must have attended a baptism preparation class at any Catholic Church within last two years of prospective baptism date.

† Where can I get the necessary paperwork?

- Paperwork is available in the Parish Office or in the Religious Education Office. Forms may also be downloaded via our web site (www.sjvnews.net)
 - Paperwork includes: *Baptism Information Form* and *Godparent Form* for each Godparent.
 - Other forms might include: *Letter of Permission* to baptize if you are registered with another parish or if child is not your biological child; *Birth Certificate* if child is adopted; and/or *Certificate of Class Completion* if baptism class has already been completed.

† How can I sign up for baptism class?

- Call (408) 258-7832 and request a class date. We need parents' names, child's name, contact phone number, and number of people who will be in attendance. (Classes fill up quickly)

† If I attend next month's baptism class, when will I be baptizing my baby?

- Confirmation of the Baptism date will be after ALL paperwork is submitted.
- **PLEASE DO NOT** send out invitations, reserve reception sites, or make travel arrangements for family members and other guests until we have confirmed a baptism date and time with you.

† Do the godparents have to be Catholic?

- Under Canon Law (Church Law), a godparent must be a person who is a practicing Catholic with all Sacraments of Initiation.
- Those who are not practicing Catholic or are not Catholic can participate in the baptism ceremony as a "Christian Witness." They will still need to attend a class and will function like a Catholic godparent, but they will be listed as a "Christian Witness." We respect others' beliefs and would not want to put them in a position that conflicts with what they believe.
- Although you may have up to 8 godparents/Christian witnesses, please note that up to TWO people will be listed on the baptismal certificate.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1255) states: *"For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So, too, is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized child on the road of Christian Life. Their task is a truly ecclesial (church) function. The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism."* **The role of godparent is more than an honorary title; it's an important role in the development of a child's faith and spiritual journey.**

† I am ready to pick a baptism date. What do I do?

- If you are ready, then classes have been completed and all paperwork is turned in. If we do not have completed paperwork in our possession, you must submit it before requesting a date.
- If all paperwork is present, and the class requirement is met, we are ready to set a date!