

St. Gregory the Great Church Sacrament of Baptism Information
under COVID-19 circumstances

- ❖ Baptisms take place every Saturday. The first request received for a given Saturday will be assigned to 1:00PM. The second request will be assigned to 10:00AM. Baptisms can be scheduled for children age newborn through 6 years old. (If your child is older than 6 years old, contact Thomas Gallagher for more information.)
- ❖ Please indicate in the "Mass Requested" box whether or not you are open to sharing the liturgy with another family by writing "shared" or "private." If we have another request for the same day after both baptism times are filled, we will assign a shared baptism and inform you.
- ❖ Baptisms in Spanish are scheduled on Saturday. Contact Janice Sigala Figueroa in the church office for more information.
- ❖ Regarding COVID adjustments, your group would be limited to 24 people including the child, unless you were to share the baptism with another family in which case you would be limited to 12. We would ask you in advance if you are open to sharing the baptism if a third request for baptism on the same day comes in. Everyone in your group ages 10 and up would be required to wear a mask while in the church building.
- ❖ BAPTISM REQUESTS - Parents are asked to submit a copy of the birth certificate with the baptism request form for the sake of accuracy in our sacramental records. Requests for dates/Masses must be made at least 2 weeks prior to requested date. All information must be submitted, and parent class completed at least 1 week prior to date of baptism.
- ❖ If applicable, adoption papers must be presented when signing up for a baptism.
- ❖ Parent(s) must view the Baptismal Preparation Videos which will be emailed to you once you email Thomas Gallagher. Classes are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Martin/Gordian room. If taking the class at another parish, parents will need to submit a letter of attendance.
- ❖ Godparents – Traditionally speaking, a child only needs one godparent for Baptism (male or female) but may have 2 godparents (one male and one female). As long as there is one Catholic godparent, a baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic Christian community may serve as a Christian witness to the Baptism. A Christian witness does not assume the obligations of a godparent and would not respond to the questions during the Baptism. A person who was baptized Catholic but does not practice the faith any longer would not be a suitable choice as a godparent and may not serve as a Christian witness. No paperwork is required for a Christian witness.
- ❖ Each godparent must submit a signed "Godparent Attestation Form for Infant Baptism" that attests on his/her integrity to the fact that he/she meets all the requirements to serve as a godparent. The letter only needs to be signed by the godparent. The requirements to serve as a godparent are: Baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, and if married, married in the Catholic Church.
- ❖ If a godparent is unable to be present for the baptism you may choose one proxy to stand in for that godparent. Please include the name of the proxy on the baptism form. A proxy must be at least 14 years of age. No other information is needed for a proxy.

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- ❖ Godparents cannot be changed after the Baptism has taken place.
- ❖ There are no rules on what your child should wear for the baptism. We ask that caps or bonnets be able to be removed easily and that the neckline be loose so that the minister can anoint your child. The baptism candle and “white garment” (single piece of white fabric) will be supplied by the Church.
- ❖ It is customary to award the celebrating priest/deacon with a financial stipend as a thank you. The amount is strictly up to you. Checks should be made out to the officiating priest/deacon.

Thank you for passing the faith on to your child! We rejoice with you in this newest member of the family of God. We are here to assist you in every way. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thomas Gallagher

Director of Religious Education

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