



Baptism

To initiate the process for the children, birth to six years of age, call the parish office at 663-2244 and give the secretary the necessary information. A staff member will contact you to arrange a visit and schedule the required Pre-Baptism session.

For children seven years or older, call the Religious Education Office at 6218133. These children will enter into a process called **R.C.I.C. or Right of Christian Initiation for Children** that is adapted for children.

To baptize your child, parents must first be registered **and active** members of Holy Cross Parish with a census card on file. You can call or visit the parish office to get the necessary papers. Godparents for Baptism should be **active** practicing Catholics **but at least one MUST be**.

Baptism is celebrated on Sunday at 1:00 PM or may be celebrated during Mass at your request. The Pre-Baptismal Program is offered on the third Sunday of the month.

****Baptism** is the first and basic sacrament of Christian initiation. It is administered by immersing the recipient in water or by pouring (not just sprinkling) water on the person's head "in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (cf. Matthew 28:19). The ordinary minister of the sacrament is a bishop or priest, or (in the Western Church, but not in the Eastern Churches) a deacon. Baptism frees from original sin and all personal sins and from the punishment due to them, and makes the baptized person share in the Trinitarian life of God through "sanctifying grace" (the grace of justification that incorporates the person in Christ and his Church). It imparts the "theological" virtues (faith, hope and charity) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It marks the baptized person with a spiritual seal or character that indicates permanent belonging to Christ.*

***"Roman Catholic Church." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.*