**ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH**

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**Preparing for Baptism**

**at**

**St. Margaret Mary Church**

**12686 Central Ave**

**Chino, California 91710**

**(909) 591-7400**

**WE ARE SO GLAD YOU WANT 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.

Our Church teaches that parents are the primary teachers of the faith. 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, to help parents to understand their mission to give Christ to their children.

***CHECKLIST FOR BAPTISM***

**\_\_\_\_\_** Consider the importance of*Baptism*, and what is expected of you as parents, and especially those you have chosen to be sponsors of the Catholic faith (godparents) lifestyle reflecting what we believe as Catholics. Baptism is a public statement of commitment to serve the Lord and others in the context of the Catholic church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete the *Baptism Registration Form* and ensure we receive it along with the stewardship donation of $50.00. If this is a financial hardship, it can be waived.

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend a *Baptismal Preparation Session.* At the preparation session you will learn the dates available for Baptism.

***BAPTISMAL GUIDELINES***

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

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

2. These are the steps to prepare for Baptism:

* Parents come by the Parish Office to complete the Baptism Registration. **Please provide your child’s original birth certificate.** At this time, the offering ($50.00) is given.

3. Baptism dates are generally the following:

* English class: 1st Saturday of the month, Baptism: 3rd Saturday of the month at 10am, or during a weekend Mass of that weekend.
* Spanish class: 1st Wednesday of the month and Baptism a Sunday of that same month at 1pm Mass or during a weekend Mass that weekend.
* There are no baptisms during Lent.
* Because baptism is a rite of welcome to the Church, there are no **“private”** baptisms.

4. Godparents should be active and practicing Catholics in good standing in the Catholic Church and must be confirmed. They may be single or married. **However, if married, they must have been married in the Catholic Church.** Parents need to choose godparents who will give a good example of Catholic life.

***CODE OF CANON LAW -*** *(Spells out the Church’s direction for Baptism)*

CHAPTER I: THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

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

2̊ 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:

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

2̊ 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:

1̊ 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;

2̊ 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;

3̊ 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*);

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

5̊ 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)***