

## ***SAINT JAMES PARISH***

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1275 - "B" Street • Davis, California 95616-2003 • (530) 756-3636 • [www.stjamesdavis.org](http://www.stjamesdavis.org)

Dear Parents,

St. James Catholic Community is delighted that you have chosen to have your child baptized. Baptism is a joyful and wonderful celebration of the welcoming of a new life into our Parish family. It is the beginning of a life-long journey of knowing and following Jesus. St. James Parish Community welcomes your child with open arms and extends its loving support for living a life that reflects Jesus to the world.

We wish to help you make this Sacrament of Baptism a sacred, beautiful, and memorable occasion for you, your family and friends. After reading the information in the following packet, if you have any questions regarding Baptismal preparation classes and Baptism, please call:

Marcia Berry (for English & Spanish language classes & Baptism)  
(530) 756- 3636 ext.202 or [mberry@stjamesdavis.net](mailto:mberry@stjamesdavis.net)

May God's blessings be with you,

Fr. Rey Bersabal, Pastor  
St. James Church

**"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs."**

**Mark 10: 13-16**

## St. James Church Baptism Requirements

### Requirements for Parents

- Parents should supply a photocopy of the baby's birth certificate (the copy can be made at the office) and a completed Baptism Registration Form
- Parents must have a personal commitment to helping their child grow spiritually within the Catholic community
- Parents are to be registered, participating members of St. James Parish community for at least three (3) months
- Parents are to participate in Baptismal preparation classes
- Parents are asked to carefully and prayerfully choose Godparents following the requirements listed in this information packet.
- Parents not from St. James will need to provide a letter of permission from their parish
- Parents are asked to prayerfully consider a donation. The Archdiocese suggests \$50. If \$50 is too much, please consider what you can afford.

### Requirements for Godparents

- Godparents must be 16 years of age or older
- Godparents should have received all sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) They will **need to provide a Baptism certificate with notations for First Communion and Confirmation. If they were not Confirmed at their church of Baptism, they can provide a Certificate of Confirmation from that church**
- They should be participating in the Sacraments and be active members of their parish community. **If they are married, they must be married in the church**
- At least one Godparent (preferably both) must be a practicing Catholic as outlined in the above requirements. If an exception is made, the godparent will need to be a baptized Christian and a worthy role model.
- In addition, the Godparents will need to have one of the following:
  1. A letter of recommendation from their parish priest (or church pastor) confirming that they are active members of their parish.
  2. The Godparents need to attend some type of baptismal preparation class with a letter or certificate of completion.

**“There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.”**

**Ephesians 4: 5-6**

### **Commonly Asked Questions About Baptism**

**Q: When do baptisms occur?**

**A:** English language baptisms occur the first Sunday of each month. Special Arrangements for alternate times may be requested. No baptisms occur during the Season of Lent from Ash Wednesday to the weekend after Easter.

**Q: Who Will Baptize my Child?**

**A:** Deacons usually perform the English language baptisms. The option of having a Priest do the baptism is also available upon request.

**Q: Who leads the Baptismal preparation classes?**

**A:** Classes in the English language are taught by Deacons. Classes in the Spanish language are led by a Spanish speaking member of the Hispanic Community.

**Q: When and where do baptismal preparation classes meet?**

**A:** The English language classes usually meet in the St. Patrick Room at the St. James Memorial Center, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7-9 pm.

**Q: Can more than two Godparents be chosen?**

**A:** More than two Godparents can be chosen, but only two of the Godparents names will appear in the Baptism Book of Records.

**Q: After taking a Pre-Baptismal class for our first baby do we have to take subsequent classes for future children?**

**A:** Yes, you will need to re-take the Pre-baptism class if it has been 2 years or longer since your last class. We ask that you do this because each child is a unique individual and each Baptism is a unique experience.

**Q: Can the mother or father of the child to be Baptized be the Godparent?**

**A:** No they cannot.

**Q: Can a child be baptized at St. James Church if the parents are members of a different parish?**

**A:** Yes, as long as the parents have a letter from their parish priest giving St. James Parish permission to baptize the child. They also need to have a letter stating that they have completed a baptismal preparation class.

**Q: Are there any fees to have my child baptized at St. James Church?**

**A:** There are no fees charged for baptism. It is, however, traditional that an offering to the church be made at the time of baptism. (*The suggested offering is \$50, offerings of any amount are always welcome.*)

**Q: I would like to have my school-aged child baptized. What should I do?**

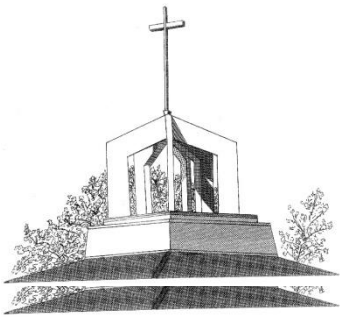
**A:** Older children (7 years old, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or older) are prepared for baptism through the process called Rite of Christian Initiation for Children. Please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator, at 756-3636, X-210, for more information about this process.

**Q: Why can't my married name be put on the baptismal certificate?**

**A:** The church wants the full birth names of both parents on the certificate.

*"In one spirit we were all baptized into one body."  
1st Corinthians*

*"The one who belongs to God is equipped for every good work."  
2nd Timothy*



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### REGISTRATION for BAPTISM (Please PRINT all information)

Full name of the child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Street, City, Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Full Birth Name \_\_\_\_\_ His religion \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Full *maiden* Name \_\_\_\_\_ Her religion \_\_\_\_\_  
Married in the Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Where did you marry, and what is name of Priest  
or minister? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you did not marry in the Church, *why* did you not involve your Catholic faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*How often do you worship with us; why do you want to baptize your child in our parish; in what  
other ways do you practice the faith?*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Godparent \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed and practicing Catholic Yes or No  
Address (Street, City & Zip code): \_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed and practicing Catholic Yes or No  
Address (Street, City & Zip code): \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, what faith are they? \_\_\_\_\_

### Any Questions you might have

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Return Completed Form To: St. James Church, Attn. Marcia Berry**

*OFFICE USE Only:*

- Date of Baptism Class: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date for Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_
- Clergy officiating Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.....’ ” and “Jesus continued to say, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the works that I do.’ ” (Gospel of John)

## **Code of Canon Law** (which govern the Catholic Church and Her Administration of the Sacraments) *selected codes*

Can. 774 §2 Before all others, parents are bound to form their children, **by word and example, in faith and in Christian living**. The same obligation binds sponsors (godparents) and those who take the place of parents. (*Emphasis added*)

### CHAPTER I : THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

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

℣ 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:

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

℣ 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 fulfil 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:

℞ 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;

℣ 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;

℣ 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*);

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

℣ 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.