

**We are so glad you are asking to have your child Baptized!**

When parents seek Baptism for their children, they are saying their faith is something they treasure.

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.

Parents requesting Baptism for their child should be close to their Faith — to its beliefs, its requirements, its sacramental life. They should be active members of the local parish community. Your participation in the parish helps create a "Faith Family" which is the soil in which your own faith and the faith of your child are nurtured.

This "Parish Family" offers instruction, support and solidarity so that your faith thrives and grows throughout your life. On this particular occasion, we want to support you in your ministry of being "the first teachers of Faith to your child."



SACRED HEART CHURCH

22 STONE ST

SALINAS, CA 93901

424-1959



*I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit*

## The Sacrament of Baptism

A GUIDE TO PREPARE  
FOR BAPTISM IN OUR  
PARISH COMMUNITY

## BAPTISMAL GUIDELINES

Ordinarily those baptized here are children of Sacred Heart parishioners. Others may also be baptized here, for a good reason, and with the permission of their home parish.

These are the steps to prepare for Baptism:

- A) Parents come by the Parish Center (22 Stone Street) to complete the Baptism Information Form. **Please provide your child's original birth certificate.**
- B) Once the Baptism Information Form is completed, parents and godparents are invited to an evening of prayer and instruction. (If possible, please do not bring walking children to this session.)
- C) After parents and godparents have attended the evening of prayer and discussion, a parent or guardian must come to the parish office during office hours (M,T,Th,F 9AM-5PM,W 1-5PM) to register the child for a Baptism date. At this time, the fee (\$50.00) is given.

## BAPTISM DATES

English: 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM

Spanish: 4th Saturday at 10:00 AM

There are NO Baptisms during Lent.

Baptism is a rite of welcome to the Church, therefore there are no **'private'** Baptisms.

Active Sacred Heart parishioners may request Baptism at a Sunday or weekday Mass. Please call the office at 424-1959 for an appointment with a priest if you would like a Baptism during Mass.

## GODPARENTS

**Parents need to choose godparents who will give a good example of Catholic Life.**

Godparents must be ACTIVE, 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.**

You may have more than two people stand up with you at the Baptism ceremony, however, you must select two (or one) to be on the certificate, and in the register.

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTION

Our Baptismal Preparation Instruction (an evening of prayer and discussion) is offered on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

English: Meets in the Church

Spanish: Meets in the Parish Center

**Both** parents (unless it is a single parent situation) and godparents must attend the class — even if one parent is not of the Catholic faith.

If godparents are from out-of-town, they may follow the requirements of their parish and furnish Sacred Heart with a letter granting permission to be godparents.

This class may be attended by expectant parents and godparents prior to the infant's birth — in fact, it is encouraged!

