



SAINT BENEDICT PARISH

300 Yates Drive Milton, Ontario L9T 2W3 ♦ (289) 878-3118 www.stbenedictparish.ca

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated with infants and children (under the age of 7), on Sundays during the celebration of Mass. Prior to the celebration of their first child, parents and godparents will be invited to participate in a *Baptism Preparation Session* offered by the Parish.

Parents are the *first teachers* of their children in the faith and our Parish community is here to support you in this important role.

Regular attendance at Sunday Mass, and reception of the other Sacraments, support us in our journey of faith. *The family that prays together, stays together!*

May God bless you at this important time.

Who can be baptized at Saint Benedict Parish?

The Rite of Baptism with infants can be celebrated with the children of registered parishioners.

Families who attend other Parishes may request the celebration of Baptism at our Parish and are required to obtain a Letter of Permission from their Parish Priest. These families will also be expected to complete the Baptism Preparation course offered by their Parish.

What about Baptism Preparation?

A baptism preparation meeting for all parents is held on the first Tuesday of the month in which baptism is to be celebrated. It begins at 7:00 p.m.

When is Baptism celebrated?

Often Baptism for children of parishioners can be celebrated during Sunday Mass, but most often on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:30 p.m. Accommodations are made in situations of pastoral

need or depending upon the circumstance of the family.

Why is Baptism celebrated during Mass?

The Sunday Eucharist is the most important celebration of the Christian week. Baptism is intimately linked with the Eucharist because it is through Baptism that we can take our place at the Table of the Lord.

Who can serve as a Godparent?

A Catholic who is *baptized, confirmed*, and regularly attends the Sunday Eucharist, and who is seeking to live a moral life, may be chosen to be a **godparent**.

What is a Christian Witness?

A Christian Witness is a *baptized* Christian who may be asked to witness the Baptism along with a Catholic godparent. At every Baptism there must be at least one Catholic godparent.

What are the promises made in Baptism?

Parents make promises for their child in the celebration of Baptism. They take on the responsibility of being the *first teachers* in faith for their child. This includes helping them encounter the love of God through the community of faith by attending Sunday Mass. It also includes helping the child grow in their understanding of living a life of faith, hope and love.

Parents also make the *Profession of Faith* (Creed) on behalf of their child and promise to pass on the faith of the Church to him/her.

This is an important responsibility. Our Parish community desires to support parents in this task through prayer and witness.

What about the child's name?

The naming of a child is one of the first, and most significant, acts of parents. The child's name will follow them for their entire life. As Christians, we often name our children after a Saint. Names that have a significant history in the child's family are also often appropriate. Parents are encouraged to carefully consider the name by which their child will be known for their entire lifetime ... it is also the name which the Lord will call as your son or daughter matures in the Christian life.

What about parent's marital status?

Catholics have a responsibility to celebrate marriage before a Catholic Priest and two witnesses. In situations where this has not taken place, the child's celebration of Baptism is **still possible**. The Pastor may discuss the parents' marital status and help in bringing the Church's blessing to the union.

Is there a fee?

There is no fee for the celebration of Baptism. If a family wishes they may make a free will offering to the priest/deacon who presides or to Saint Benedict Parish for Baptism.

What about photography?

Invited guests are asked to refrain from taking photos or video during the celebration as it may interfere with the prayer experience of those gathered for Sunday Mass. At the conclusion of the celebration there will be ample opportunity for pictures.

What do parents bring to the celebration?

Parents should ensure that the child is dressed primarily in white clothing for the celebration. The Parish will provide a towel to dry the child's head, and we will provide the Baptismal Candle. The Priest will be very happy to bless any religious articles or baptismal gifts after the celebration has concluded.