

St. Pius X INFANT BAPTISM REQUEST

Dear Parents:

Welcome and congratulations on the blessing of your child!

We share your joy and look forward to the day when your child will be welcomed into the Catholic Christian community of faith. We are excited to walk with you as you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in this our community.

The ***Call to Celebrate: Baptism*** program will help you to prepare for this special day in your child's life. You will join with other families in exploring the Sacrament of Baptism and the commitment it requires of you as parents. You will have many opportunities for personal reflection, sharing and dialog. We would like to extend a special welcome to our non-Catholic parents. We hope you feel comfortable participating in these sessions and sharing your stories.

You will be engaged in the process of preparation in a very personal way. A team of parish volunteers - parents like you... will facilitate the sessions. In each session, the group explores the ritual of Baptism to help you better understand why it is that we "do what we do" when we baptize children in our Roman Catholic tradition. You'll explore the faith commitment and responsibilities required of parents who choose Baptism for their children.

It is our hope that this program will provide you the opportunity to pray, to learn, to listen, and to discern your readiness to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of grace with your child.

We ask that you read the Godparent Information Sheet prior to coming to the first session. In addition, there are two certificates that should be signed by the pastor(s) of whomever you choose to be your child's godparents. If you have not yet chosen godparents, you may wish to wait until after our first session.

Please complete the Baptism Request Form beginning on page 3, detach & return to the parish office. A member of the Baptism Team will contact you regarding class dates, times and to schedule a pre-class interview.

Feel free to contact the parish office if you have questions!

Congratulations, again! We look forward to seeing you soon and beginning your child's journey to the waters of Baptism.

Your Parish Baptismal Team

St Pius X
Catholic Church
2621 Hwy 20 South
Conyers, GA 30013

GODPARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Godparents in the Catholic Tradition

When you invite a person to serve as your child's godparent, you are asking this individual to make a lifelong commitment to your child. The day of your child's Baptism marks just the beginning of the godparent-godchild relationship. It is the hope of the Church and the Catholic community that your child's godparents will be lifelong companions who will nurture your child's faith and help him or her become a true disciple of Christ.

The Catholic community calls godparents to:

- Help their godchild grow in faith
- Teach their godchild about Catholic traditions
- Model for their godchild how to live a Catholic life

The law of the Roman Catholic Church requires that each child being baptized have one godparent to serve as his or her spiritual role model and friend. This godparent may be male or female. Two godparents – one godmother and one godfather – are the custom in the United States, but are not required.

To be a Catholic godparent, one must:

- Be a Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and regularly participates in the Eucharist
- Be an active member of a Catholic faith community
- Be at least sixteen years old

When choosing a godparent for your child, it may be helpful to consider the following:

1. Is this person actively practicing his or her faith? Does he or she worship at Sunday Eucharist regularly? (This is the most important question to ask. If the person selected is not an active, practicing Catholic, he or she will not be able to fulfill effectively the role of godparent.)
2. Does this person live close enough, or will this person have sufficiently frequent contact, to get to know your child and play an active role in your child's faith life?
3. Does this person know enough about the Catholic Church and Catholic faith to be able to teach your child about it?
4. If something happened to you, would this person make sure your child was raised as an active member of the Catholic community?

What is a Christian witness? Some families may wish to have a non-Catholic Christian also serve as a sponsor for their child. Although at least one Catholic godparent is required, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may be invited to serve as a "Christian witness" who will participate in the celebration and will stand alongside the godparent during the baptismal ceremony.