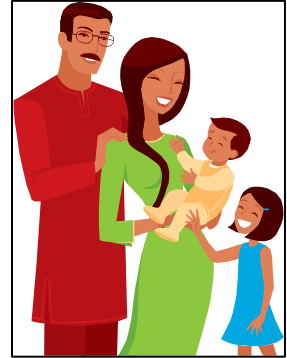


Baptismal Preparation: Revised on June 22, 2009

Mission: In accordance with Matthew's gospel account of baptizing and teaching (Mt 28:19-20), the Baptismal Preparation Ministry of St. Mary Parish empowers parents who are desiring to have their child baptized with the will, the courage, and the faith-filled confidence to live out our Christ-given sacramental journey. Not only do we explain the ceremonies of baptism as the all-important first step of their child's faith journey, we also suggest family activities, prayers, and new traditions for the parents to take home and put into practice. We encourage active participation in the entire family's ongoing parish life to foster spiritual growth both within and beyond our parish community. Through our ministry, parents come to understand, then, not only the baptismal rites and rituals, but that they and their newly baptized child are an integral part of a larger Catholic family bonded by our common love of Christ and His Church.



Organization: The baptismal preparation ministry, coordinated by the Spirituality Director, prepares parents to renew the vows of their own baptism as they initiate their children into the Catholic faith. This is done through monthly baptismal preparation meetings. At these meetings, the parents request dates for baptisms, which are later confirmed by the parish office. Information about requirements for baptism is shared with the parents at the baptismal preparation program. A member of the baptismal preparation ministry serves on the Spirituality Commission.

Follow-Up: The baptismal preparation ministry reaches out to the parents with calls, letters, and informative booklets, both before and after the actual baptism. For example, the Baptismal Preparation team follows up with a personal phone call several months after the Baptism. The parish office contacts parents a week before the scheduled Baptism, and follows up on the celebration of Baptism with a letter from the Pastor. Parents are also invited to ongoing parish programs for parents and families. The parish secretary records baptisms in the parish sacramental register and adjusts the parish census information accordingly.

Baptismal Arrangements Handbook: Please go to the Baptism link on the Spirituality page at www.stmarymokena.com, for more information about arranging Baptisms at our parish, or call the parish office to make reservations to attend the baptismal preparation program. For adult baptisms, please contact the parish office for information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), or refer to the RCIA link on the parish website.