

ST BONIFACE
510 N. Lincoln Avenue
Bay City MI 48708
(989) 893-1775

ST JOSEPH
1005 Third Street
Bay City MI 48708
(989) 895-5783

ST JOHN the EVANGELIST
1600 Hudson Street
Essexville MI 48732
(989) 894-2701

CLUSTER BAPTISMAL PROCEDURE

1. Contact to the parish is received from parent(s) requesting Baptism for a child.
2. The parish secretary or representative arranges for the Baptismal packet to be mailed or picked up at the Parish Office. The packet will include upcoming dates for parent enrichment/preparation sessions.
3. Dates for parent enrichment/preparation sessions will be projected on an annual basis and reviewed at staff cluster meetings. Each Parish will publish cluster quarterly dates, one month prior to the beginning of the quarter. Parents are asked to register for the preparation session by calling the parish where they plan to attend.

Dates for the Year 2010 are as follows:

Wednesday	January 20	7:00 p.m.	St. Boniface
Saturday	February 20	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph
Tuesday	March 9	7:00 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist
Wednesday	April 21	7:00 p.m.	St. Boniface
Saturday	May 15	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph
Tuesday	June 8	7:00 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist
Wednesday	July 21	7:00 p.m.	St. Boniface
Saturday	August 21	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph
Tuesday	September 14	7:00 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist
Wednesday	October 20	7:00 p.m.	St. Boniface
Saturday	November 14	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph
Tuesday	December 14	7:00 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist

4. The Sign-in Sheet completed at the Parish Enrichment/Preparation session will be faxed or mailed by the secretary to the other parishes of the cluster as needed.
5. Dates for Baptism must be confirmed by the pastor of each parish where a family is registered.

BAPTISM

Baptism is the first step of initiation into the community of faith. Because this is so, the celebration of Baptism and preparation for this sacrament has specific requirements in canon Law for parents and godparents. Canon 868 pp1.2. states: "there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religious; if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed according to the prescripts of particular law after the parents have been advised about the reason." The commentary goes on to state: "The parents' desire for their child's baptism is evidenced by their own practice of the faith and by the fact that they do not view baptism as a mere social convention." Simply put, it means that parents are expected to attend mass on a regular basis, be registered in this parish or another parish (i.e.) receive envelopes, sharing their time, talent and treasure).

Sponsors for Baptism – Godparents: "Designated by the parents, have completed the 16 year of age; be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the most sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." (Canon 874) The commentary goes on to say: "But even a fully initiated Catholic may be restricted from exercising the office of sponsor if he or she does not live the faith in a manner that is in keeping with the responsibilities of this office. Thus, people who do not participate regularly in the Eucharist or who are living in marriages not recognized by the Church may not be qualified to function as sponsors." Very simply, the sponsor must be a registered member of a Catholic Church. A letter of recommendation from the pastor of the sponsor is required.

