

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

Saint Dennis Church – 815-838-2592 – www.Saint-Dennis.org
1214 South Hamilton Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441

ARRANGING A BAPTISM

- Congratulations on the (coming) birth of your child and thank you having your new child baptized as a Catholic Christian! We are happy for you on this most blessed occasion!
- We celebrate baptisms for the children of our regular parishioners. We also celebrate the baptisms of their grandchildren, after first consulting with their own local parish priest.
- If you are a registered parishioner, please see our priest after Mass, so that he may set up an appointment to personally meet with you, the parents, for baptismal preparation.
- If you are not yet a registered parishioner, welcome to the parish! Our priest will meet with you about parish membership prior to making any baptismal arrangements.
- If you do not live close enough to the parish to become an actual parishioner, our priest can help you connect with your local parish community for the celebration of baptism.
- All arrangements for baptism are made in person with the priest. The dates and times for the baptism are determined during this pastoral meeting with the parish priest.
- We welcome people who have been away from the Church, who are now returning to the practice of their faith. We have a special program to help you come back to church.
- May the baptism of your new child become a very special blessing to your whole family!

GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM

- Each child may have one godfather and one godmother, or just one sponsor. A baptismal sponsor should ideally serve in this spiritual role later for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- A godparent should be a practicing Catholic, who is over sixteen years of age, and who has received the sacrament of Confirmation. A godparent is a model of faith for your child.
- However, with the approval of the priest, one of these godparents may sometimes be a baptized, practicing Christian, from another ecclesial community or from another church.

BAPTISMAL RITES

- Baptisms are celebrated in conjunction with the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, or the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Please arrive at least fifteen minutes early for final preparations.
- There are four parts to the rite of baptism: the pouring of water, the anointing with Chrism, the white garment, and a special candle. Parents provide their child's white garment.
- In order to maintain a prayerful atmosphere during the baptismal rites, pictures are not permitted during the actual ceremony itself, but a few pictures may be taken afterward.
- There are no fees for baptisms at our parish. If you wish to give a donation to the church, it will be gratefully used to support the many spiritual programs of our parish community.

***“Let the little children come unto me, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
– Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16***

REFLECTIONS ON HOLY BAPTISM

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

- Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian Initiation, by which we become Catholic Christians.
- The Eucharist and Confirmation complete the sacraments of Christian Initiation in the Church.
- Our religious education program helps parents prepare their children for their other sacraments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Our parish religious education program starts in first grade and continues through eighth grade.
- All eight years of classes are required to prepare for the other sacraments of Christian Initiation.
- Our parish youth ministry program is recommended for those who have completed eighth grade.

CHILDREN AT SUNDAY MASS

- Please bring your children with you to Mass each week, even when they are still small infants.
- Let church be a special reality in their lives, forming a part of their earliest childhood memories.
- If your child becomes over-active, the narthex area is a welcome place to take them for a break.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

- Pray together at home every day and come to Mass as a family each Sunday and Holy Day.
- Continue to deepen your understanding of Christ's teachings and apply them to everyday life.
- Become involved in some volunteer aspect of parish life, to help make church your spiritual home.

FROM THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM . . .

Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power. In baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross. After his resurrection he told his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of baptism. By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son. You created man in your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth to innocence by water and the Spirit.

We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE CLOSE OF THE AGE.” – MATTHEW 28:19-20