

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

Saint Daniel Church – 630-384-0123 – www.StDaniel.org
101 West Loop Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004

Updated on July 1, 2020

ARRANGING A BAPTISM

- Congratulations on the (coming) birth of your child, and thank you for 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 the baptismal arrangements.
- If you do not live close enough to the parish to become an actual parishioner, our priest can speak to your priest regarding doing the baptism here, rather than at your parish.
- All arrangements for baptism are made in person with the priest (or the deacon). The dates and times are discussed during this meeting with the parents of the child.
- 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. It is recommended that one of these godparents also serve as a sponsor for your child at 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 begin with attendance at Sunday Mass, during which we pray for your child. The godparents usually bring up the bread and wine. The Baptism continues after Mass.
- 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.*

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.
- The narthex area is a welcome place for active children to cry and run around during Mass.

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.

Through the celebration of this Baptism, may we all renew our spiritual commitment to Christ as our Savior! Please prayerfully reflect on the following message as an invitation to discover or deepen new life in Christ.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**The basic message of salvation can be shared in four points:
purpose, problem, provision, and pathway!**

- **God's Purpose:** God created us to be good, with the purpose of sharing his love and his happiness with us forever.
- **Our Problem:** We rejected God's plan through sin, and thus we lost our way both in this world and in the life to come.
- **God's Provision:** God provided a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Our Pathway:** We are on the way to heaven when we personally commit our lives to Jesus Christ in the community of his Church.



*Once you understand and embrace this basic message of salvation,
you can begin to act upon it wholeheartedly in three important ways!*

**First, make a personal commitment of your life to Jesus Christ as God.
Use these or similar heartfelt words for your prayer!**

***Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Fill me with your Spirit, so that I may live a new life.
Help me to know you, to love you, and to serve you in this world,
so that I may be happy with you both now and for all eternity.
Thank you, Lord. Amen.***

*Thank you for sincerely reciting this powerful prayer. Your new life in Christ has begun.
Please let us help you make your new life in Christ grow and develop well!*

**Second, start following through today on your commitment to Christ
with your fellow forgiven sinners in the community of his Church!**

- **Mind:** When your mind is filled with the truth of Christ, your whole perspective on life changes!
 - MyCatholic.Life – This is an online summary of the truth that will truly set you free for excellence.
 - CatholicsComeHome.org – This is an encyclopedia of information and inspiration for daily living.
 - ChristLife course at our church – Please contact the parish office to enroll in this exciting course.
- **Heart:** With the renewal of your mind, there comes a profound change within your heart as well!
 - Personal Prayer – Christ is someone who really understands and truly cares for you.
 - Scriptural Reflection – The words and deeds of Christ inspire you to respond in kind.
 - Sacramental Lifestyle – The sacraments keep you connected to Christ until he returns.
- **Life:** Become an active member of our parish community! Please check out StDaniel.org for information.
 - We are looking upward in faith to the God who saves us! – Come and look upward with us!
 - We are moving forward in hope toward our heavenly goal! – Come and move forward with us!
 - We are leading onward in love to new life in Christ! – Come and lead onward with us today!

*We are a faith community of prayer, learning, and service.
Please come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ!*

Third, here are some ways to tell that you are on the path of Intentional Discipleship as a faithful Catholic Christian!

- **First**, you are starting to do things Jesus' way because, with his love and his grace, you can! Your personal relationship with Jesus changes everything in your whole life. Repentance means a change of mind and heart in how you live out your life according to the truth of Christ's Teachings and with the grace of his Sacraments.
- **Second**, you are starting to avoid evil because you no longer feel okay about sinning! Because Jesus died on the cross for you, you are experiencing life in a whole new way. With your increasing desire to please Christ in every way, you are overcoming vice and are growing in virtue, within the supportive community of his Church.
- **Third**, you are starting to give your life totally to Christ, in a personal and communal relationship with Christ and his Church. Because of your deepening commitment to Christ and his Church, you are starting to pray like this: "Lord Jesus, I want what you want, because you want it, as you want it, when you want it!" Amen!

Please contact us at Prayer@StDaniel.org for prayer, guidance, and support in leading your new life in Christ. Your prayer requests are welcome too!

In conclusion, here are some further thoughts for you to prayerfully consider about your new life in Jesus Christ!

- **How do you know that you need a Savior?** Consider the good, the bad, and the ugly. 1) The Good: the best that you have is just never good enough. 2) The Bad: your own solutions don't really work out that well. 3) The Ugly: in the end, you know that you are going to die anyway. You need Christ because only he can replace the good, the bad, and the ugly, with all that is really true, good, and beautiful.
- **Jesus Christ invites you to experience all that is true, good, and beautiful!** 1) The True: there is a reason and purpose to life, which you discover through faith in Jesus Christ. 2) The Good: there are values that endure forever, which you encounter through the love of Jesus Christ. 3) The Beautiful: you realize that the only life really worth living is one in which Jesus Christ is at the center of it.
- **Isn't it enough to be spiritual, instead of being religious?** The short answer is "no." Here is the long answer. 1) Being religious without being spiritual is like going through the motions, but without having faith. 2) Being spiritual without being religious is like talking the talk, but without walking the walk. 3) Being religious is the lifestyle that spiritually transforms your everyday existence for the better in Christ.
- **The opposite of spiritual is not religious – the opposite of spiritual is worldly.** 1) Being Worldly is acting as if this life were all that there is. 2) Being Spiritual is realizing that there is so much more to life. 3) Being Religious is living spiritually within a broken world. Religion is what connects your highest aspirations with your everyday lived experience. Religion is thus the bridge from this life to the next in Christ!
- **The Christian Religion, founded by Jesus Christ, holds your life together in three ways.** 1) Creed: you understand life more fully through the teachings of Christ's Church. 2) Code: you get along with others better because you realize how much Christ loves you in the community of his Church. 3) Culture: you connect with Christ spiritually through the sacraments of Christ's Church.
- **Why should you be a Catholic Christian?** Because the Church that Jesus founded is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Everything that Christ intended for his faithful followers from the very beginning, continues faithfully even now in the Catholic Church, through Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium, until Christ returns in glory at the end of time. So, come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church today!

For prayer, guidance, and support in all these important spiritual matters, please contact us today at Prayer@StDaniel.org. God bless you!

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