



ST. JOAN OF ARC

— P A R I S H —

BETTENDORF, IOWA

Congratulations as you prepare for the baptism of your child! We look forward to the celebration and are sure it will be a memorable experience for you and your family.

The Sacrament of Baptism may be celebrated on **most weekends of each month**, at either of our parish campuses unless another ritual/parish event is planned. We encourage celebrating the sacrament during Mass; it may also be celebrated after Masses. *(During Lent, it must be after Mass.)*

Method of Baptism The Rite of Baptism uses the pouring of water over the head of the child.

Baptism Preparation Class This class is held every other month in the odd months of the year. It is a special time for you and we encourage you to attend it prior to your child's birth, if possible. As baptism is a significant event in your child's life, godparents are also invited to attend the class. This class is required for first-time parents; it may be repeated for subsequent children, depending on length of time since first class and/or additional factors. **Please contact the parish office to inquire and register.**

Baptism During Mass

- Parents, godparents, and the child to be baptized may be part of the entrance procession, so should be in the Gathering Space 20 minutes before Mass to meet with the priest.
- After announcing your child's name, parents are asked: "**Why do you wish to have your child baptized?**" The baptism prep class will assist you on how to answer this question, but you may answer however you wish.
- Parents serve as gift bearers. Please entrust your child to their godparents as you take part in the liturgy.
- Pictures and/or videos may be taken during the baptismal rite; the celebrant will be available for additional photos after Mass, if you request it.

Baptisms After Mass

Celebrated after Mass (Saturdays) or after 10:30am/11:00am Mass (Sundays). Please schedule as early as possible to ensure your desired date.

Role of the Godparent

At the beginning of the Rite of Baptism, the godparent(s) is asked: "Are you willing to help the parents of this child in their duties as Christian parents." To fulfill this role, the godparent must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist and be at least 16 years old. A baptized person who belongs to another Christian denomination may serve as a "Christian Witness." Ideally, one of your child's godparents will also be their sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Again, congratulations on your child's baptism. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.