

It has been the constant practice of the Roman Catholic Church from the earliest times to administer the sacrament of Baptism to infants. Parents very naturally want to pass along their own faith to their child and their values that flow from that faith. Baptism marks the beginning of this faith life. Pope John Paul II calls the family the Domestic Church, the Christian home where the child begins to experience life as part of a collection of families called the Church. At Baptism, the parents and sponsors along with the whole Christian community take upon themselves the responsibility to make the Church and the world a place that will offer the newly baptized the love and support needed to grow to full Christian adulthood.

Therefore, *St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville, St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown Churches* welcome the opportunity to celebrate the baptism of infants and young children. We believe that the baptism of infants and young children assumes the full and active participation of both the parents and the parish community in the faith formation of children.

*St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville, St. Joseph-Olney, Holy Cross-Wendelin and St. Joseph-Stringtown Churches* celebrate the sacrament of Baptism throughout the year, except during Lent and on weekends when other special events are scheduled.

Like all sacraments, Baptism is a celebration of the whole faith community and should take place in the presence of the parish community. For this reason, it is strongly encouraged that baptisms are celebrated during a regularly scheduled Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass:

- St. Lawrence-Lawrenceville: 10:00am Sunday
- St. Joseph-Olney: 5:00pm Saturday and 8:00am on Sunday
- St. Joseph-Stringtown: 8:00am on Sunday
- Holy Cross-Wendelin: 4:00pm Saturday and 10:00am on Sunday