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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We are happy to welcome new members to our Catholic faith community. Infant Baptisms are usually celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for a child involves a serious obligation and faith commitment on the part of the Parents and Godparents. We encourage parents to begin this process prior to the birth of their child. To schedule your baptismal preparation appointment, please call Angela Trybul at 772- 287-2727ext. 109.

- ◆ Parents must be **registered** and **active** members of the Parish for **three months** before beginning the baptismal preparation process. An “active member” is properly registered on the parish rolls, faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Day, participates in parish activities/ministries when possible, and uses the parish envelope system or Faith Direct cards for donations/attendance.
- ◆ Parents and Godparents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. Our Baptismal Preparation Class is held the first or second Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m. in the Pastoral Office Conference Room. **Please call 772-287-2727, ext. 109 to RSVP for the class at least two weeks prior.**
- ◆ Review the Requirements to be a Catholic Godparent and sign the Baptismal Preparation Acknowledgement Form. Must send the certificate of baptismal preparation class attendance if class was taken in another parish.
- ◆ Each Godparent needs to sign the Eligibility Form, present it to their pastor for signature and seal.
- ◆ **Baptisms will not be scheduled until parents and Godparents have taken the Baptismal Preparation Class and all documentation has been turned in to the Parish Office**, including the baptismal preparation form, copy of the child’s birth certificate, Godparent Eligibility Form and letter of permission from parents’ church of registration (if applicable). **Parents are responsible for completed paperwork be turned in at least 1 month before the requested baptism date.**

### 2025 Baptismal Preparation Classes

(9:15 a.m. in Pastoral Office Conference Room)

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Sunday, February 2, 2025
Sunday, March 2, 2025
Sunday, April 6, 2025
NO CLASS
Sunday, June 1, 2025
Sunday, July 13, 2025
Sunday, August 3, 2025
Sunday, September 7, 2025
Sunday, October 5, 2025
Sunday, November 2, 2025
Sunday, December 7, 2025

### 2025 Baptisms

(Baptisms take place immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass)

Sunday, January 19, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, February 16, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, March 16, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, April 27 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, May 25, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, June 15, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, July 20, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, August 17, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, September 21, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, October 19, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, November 16, 2025	11:00am Mass
Sunday, December 21, 2025	11:00am Mass

## **Choosing a Godparent**

The day of Baptism is a very special day. Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church and the gateway into the Christian life. This sacrament is celebrated only once in a person's life, making it a day to be remembered.

How to choose, prayerfully consider a few things:

- 1) Does the person truly exemplify the faith, by living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church?
- 2) Does the person live a life in harmony with the Church?
- 3) Does the person regularly practice their faith by participation in the sacramental life of the Church?
- 4) Godparents should not be chosen because of family expectations or pressure. The role of the godparent is to be a presence, specifically a spiritual presence, in a child's life, and a Catholic role model.

## **The Role of a Godparent in the Child's Spiritual Life**

Godparents are a very special part of the sacrament, as they support and bolster the mission of the parents to bring up their child in the faith and to know God. The Godparents have two primary responsibilities:

- 1) To accept the responsibility to help the parents to raise the child in faith.
- 2) To represent the entire Church

Expectations of a Godparent:

- 1) To be part of the child's lifelong journey of faith.
- 2) To be a model of faith through the lived example of life in harmony with the Catholic Church.
- 3) To be a good example to the child
- 4) To practice the Catholic faith regularly.

## **Requirements to be a Catholic Godparent**

- "Each child may have a godfather and a godmother, the word 'godparents' is used in the rite to describe both." (Rite of Baptism for Children 6)
- Only one godparent is necessary. The godparent must be a fully initiated Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed, received Eucharist), at least 16 years old, and must be leading a sacramental life in harmony with the church (Cf. CIC, can. 874). They can be married or single. However, if they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. The godparent should be willing to accept the responsibility of assisting the parents in developing the faith life of the child.
- The godparent may not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized. (Cf. CIC, can. 874) 4. Although people of some cultures sometimes choose multiple godparents, there is to be only one male or female sponsor or one of each. (CIC, can. 873)
- A baptized and believing Christian from a separated church or community may act as a Christian witness at the request of the parents, but there must be a Catholic godparent. (Cf. CIC, can. 874.)
- Godparents are required to attend Baptismal Preparation in order to better understand their role as godparents. If they are from another parish, a proof of attendance and letter of recommendation from their pastor is required.