



Holy Family Catholic Church

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism, the gateway to the Sacraments and necessary for salvation by actual reception or at least by desire, is validly conferred only by a washing of true water with the proper form of words. Through baptism: men and women are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, are configured to Christ by an indelible character, and are incorporated into the Church. (Canon 849)

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to a child under seven (7) years old, under ordinary conditions. For children older than seven (7) years old, please make an appointment with the Director of Discipleship & Catechesis. In the danger of death or grave illness, please call the Pastor for immediate emergency Baptism. Every person not yet baptized, and only such a person, is capable of Baptism. Therefore, Baptism can only be received once in a person's life.

Baptism Celebrations:

Parents "are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks" following birth, i.e., as soon as reasonably possible (Canon #867). Parents may prepare for the impending Baptism even prior to the birth of their child by scheduling the date and attending the Baptism Preparation Class (see below).

The Sacrament of Baptism is typically celebrated after a weekend Mass (Saturdays 5:00 pm, Sundays 8:00 am, or 10:30 am). Other times throughout the week may be possible by special arrangement. Parents must contact the parish office to schedule the Baptism at least *two weeks* before the Baptism date.

Baptism Preparation Class:

Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to the Baptism of their first child OR if it has been more than 3-years since they last attended this class. Sessions are led by the Director of Discipleship & Catechesis on an as needed basis. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment and for instructions to access the "Reborn" videos, which will be discussed during the Preparation Class.

Baptism Requirements:

At least one of the parents (or guardians) of the child must be an active member of Holy Family Catholic Parish. Active membership includes, but is not limited to, being registered in the parish, weekly and Holy Days attendance at Mass, and financial and volunteer support of the parish according to one's means. While the criteria for Godparents do not explicitly apply to the parents of the child, they do provide a basic guide for active membership. For a child to be baptized, the parents or guardian must provide: (1) consent for the baptism and (2) sufficient evidence and hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion so as to live and practice the faith (Canon 868).

Selection of Godparents (i.e., Sponsors):

It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian to ensure their selected Godparent(s) meet the Church's requirements for this role using the *Sponsor Verification Form*. Selected Godparents, including members of Holy Family, are required to complete the *Sponsor Verification Form* and return it to Holy Family at least two weeks before the Baptism.