***Baptism***

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***"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."***

***Catechism of the Catholic Church §1213***

 ***STEPS TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED***

* [**Attend a Baptismal Preparation**](https://stjosephsjax.org/schedule-your-attendance-at-a-baptismal-seminar) **Class***– Baptismal Preparation classes are usually held on the* ***third Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the church****. There is no need to sign up, just show up and there will be a sign-in sheet as proof of your attendance. If it has been more than 3 years since you last attended a baptismal preparation class, you will need to attend another class. Exceptions to this requirement are given on a case-by-case basis.*
* ***Complete a Baptismal Registration Form****– Parents/guardians wanting to have their child baptized must complete a Baptismal Packet.*
* ***Submit Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility for both sponsors –****The prospective godparent(s) is required to be an ACTIVE and practicing Catholic and should obtain a Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility form from the parish where he or she is registered. If the godparent is an active registered parishioner here at San Juan del Rio, he or she is required to complete and submit a Sponsor Eligibility Form (see link below for a downloadable form)*
* ***Set the Baptism Date –*** *Contact the parish office to see if the baptism date/time you prefer is available. We only schedule one baptism per weekend mass. If you want a date/time other than after the weekend mass, you must make a special request.*

***Sponsors & Christian Witnesses (according to Canon Law)***

* + *Only one male OR one female Sponsor OR one of each gender is to be selected.*
	+ *At least one of the godparents is required to be in Full Communion with the Catholic Church, registered at a parish, and participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days.*
	+ *A person who is baptized in another Christian faith, is called a Christian Witness.*
	+ *A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and may not be the mother or father of the person receiving a sacrament.*

***FOR ALL FORMS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT (904) 287-0519***

***Please submit all Baptism forms to*** ***dcook@sjdrparish.org*** ***ASAP, but no later than one (1) week before the scheduled baptism***