

INFANT BAPTISM GUIDELINES



Dear Parents,

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17.

Our parish family here at Sacred Heart welcomes you and your child. Baptism marks a significant event in the life of your child and your family, for through Baptism your child becomes a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. Moreover, the newly baptized is given the status of being an adopted child of God. Baptism also opens the doors to the other sacraments, which allows for spiritual growth and support.

We ask that you read the following guidelines carefully. If some questions should arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. We want your child’s baptism to be a spiritual and memorable event.

May God bless you as you prepare to begin this journey of faith with your child.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS: As your child grows in faith and knowledge, you as parents are the most influential force in his/her life. Your example through the active participation in your faith life will help your child come to Christ. Therefore, it is important that you see the value in preparing yourself as well as your child to take this significant step. We ask both parents to attend the Parent Class if they have not attended in the past two years.

The next Parent Baptism Class is _____ in the Library.

(OVER)

GODPARENTS: Your choice of godparents is very important. A godparent is a witness to your child in modeling the faith life of the entire community. Through you and their godparents, your child will come to know Christ. Children need to have at least one Godparent, but it is strongly recommended that they would have two, one male and one female. Godparents must be Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, have received the three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) and be active in their faith – attending Mass on a weekly basis. If they are married, the marriage must be a valid, recognized marriage in the Catholic Church (in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon).

A baptized person of another Christian denomination cannot be a godparent. They are invited to be a Christian Witness if baptized in another denomination, and we welcome them, but they cannot be the godparent of record. The godparents represent the community of faith in which the child is being baptized. For this reason it is required that only those who are practicing Catholics be godparents. In addition, the godparents are chosen to instill and support the faith of the community in which the child will one day receive the sacraments.

In addition to attending the baptism class, the parents must provide the church office with the following **DOCUMENTATION:**

- 1) The completed data form which can be obtained from the church Office.
- 2) A copy of the regular birth certificate or copy of the preliminary Hospital Certificate
- 3) The names of the final choice(s) for godparents with correct spelling as they will appear on the Baptismal Certificate.
- 4) If classes were taken elsewhere, a letter will be required stating where and when you have taken classes.

SCHEDULING: Baptisms will only be scheduled when the parents have attended the baptism class or provided a certificate/ letter of attendance elsewhere, and all documents have been provided.

To schedule the baptism you must either come to the church office or call the church office when you have completed all the requirements in order to get your name on a specific schedule for baptism.