

## PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM

### **WELCOME! WE ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU ARE SEEKING TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED.**

The sacrament of baptism was given to us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Through baptism, we become children of God, temples of the Holy Spirit, and a member of the Kingdom of God, which is the Catholic Church. Baptism is the beginning of a new life of grace for your child and the door to all the other sacraments.

Since baptism is such an important moment for your child, we believe it is important to prepare both for the ceremony and also for the commitments of raising your child as a son or daughter of our God.

### **Requirements for having your child baptized**

- ***The child must be 6 years old or younger\****.
- ***At least one parent (or legal guardian) must give consent for baptism.*** That parent (or legal guardian) must be a baptized Catholic.
- ***There needs to be a commitment to raise the child in the Catholic Church before a baptism can be scheduled.*** This includes going to Mass every Sunday.
- ***Parents need to meet with the St. John's baptismal preparation coordinator.*** Please call the parish office and the Baptism Preparation Coordinator will contact you to obtain your information and answer your questions regarding the baptism of your child.
- ***It is necessary to provide a copy of the birth certificate of the child.*** Please note, for unmarried mothers, the father's name will be on the certificate if his name is on a public document as being the father or he otherwise proves it to be the case.
- ***You and the Godparents must attend a baptismal class unless you've been to one in the past 3 years.*** Baptism preparation classes in English are scheduled by appointment. Baptism preparation classes in Spanish are generally held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. if people are signed up for it. Please call the rectory to register. ***If you've attended a class elsewhere, we need a letter so indicating from the church where you attended class. If you are a godparent needing the class, please sign up by calling the parish office.***

### **Requirements for Godparents**

- ***You may have 1 or 2 Godparents.*** If there are two, they must 1 male and 1 female. No more than two Godparents are allowed and they may not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.
- ***Godparents must be over 16 years old and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. They need to be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.*** A life in harmony with the faith means someone who is practicing their faith weekly, believes what the Church believes, is validly married in the Church or living a chaste single life and has no other obstacles to being a good Catholic example of Christian life.
- ***If Godparents want to take classes at another Catholic parish, they must provide a letter stating they took the class and are eligible to act as a godparent/Christian Witness for Baptism.***

- ***If there is only one Catholic Godparent, there may be 1 non-Catholic Christian witness.*** Non-Catholics are a witness to the baptism, but their name will not be listed on the baptismal certificate. You must have one Catholic Godparent. Christian Witnesses must also be baptized.

**Scheduling the Baptism:** Baptisms are scheduled during the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays, 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass on Sundays or on available Saturdays of the month between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Dates and times for baptism will be scheduled at the prep class. Please wait for confirmation of date and time before other plans are considered.

**Clothing and Candle:** A white Christening gown is customary but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's breast. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for the baptism. The parish will provide a white Baptismal bib/stole and a decorated candle. After the ceremony they will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous milestone.

**Donation:** There is a \$50 donation to the church for each child to be baptized. Families will receive a donation envelope at the baptism prep class. Donation envelopes may be given to the celebrant on the day of the baptism, dropped off at the rectory or given to the Baptism Prep class coordinator.

**Baptismal Record and Certificate:** Each child will receive an official baptismal certificate. The baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of the parish from the information you provide. Therefore please be sure of the accuracy of information and the spelling of names.

\*Please note: If a child is 7 years or older, they are no longer an "infant" (Canon Law 97.2). Please contact the Religious Education Office or the rectory for an appointment to discuss sacramental preparation for your child.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU AND DISCUSSING THIS AMAZING SACRAMENT.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU!**