

### **When should I have my child baptized?**

Parents are encouraged to baptize their child within the first few weeks after their birth. We do, however, ask parents to attend a baptism preparation class before presenting their child for this sacrament. This is to ensure the parents fully understand the sacrament and their expected roles in raising the child in their Catholic faith.

All Catholic parents are encouraged to baptize their children in their Catholic faith. Even if a child was not baptized as an infant (or before the age of reason – 7 years old), we would like to work with you to see that your child is brought into sacramental union with the Church.

### **What if my child is older than 7 years of age?**

Please contact the Faith Formation team directly to discuss sacramental preparation for your child. The children's catechumenate will most likely apply. DRE: Maria Villa Ext. 257 Jennifer Gonzalez Ext.260

## **PARENTS**

### **Must both parents be Catholic?**

No. The Church requires that there be at least one actively practicing Catholic parent.

What if the parents of the child are not married?

The child's baptism will not be delayed for unmarried parents. However, we would encourage you to contact the Church to pursue a sacramental marriage.

What if my spouse is not Catholic?

The non-Catholic spouse must give permission for the baptism to take place and agree to not interfere with raising the child in the Catholic faith.

What if we were not married in the Catholic Church?

This will not delay the child's baptism. We encourage you to contact a priest or deacon to discuss having your marriage con-validated in the Catholic Church.

## **PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM**

Do I need to be a member of the parish?

We ask that you be a registered and active member \* of Saint Ann OR of another Catholic parish.

\* An active member, as defined by the Diocese, is registered with a parish, attends Mass on a regular basis, supports the parish through the consistent giving of time, talent, and financial resources in support of your parish, and receives regular mailings and communications from the parish.

If you are registered and active members at another parish

You must submit a "letter of permission" from the pastor which states that you are registered, active parishioners at that parish and which grants permission for the baptism to occur at Saint Ann. (Code of Canon Law: Can 857- §2).

This letter must be provided when you are scheduling the baptism.

What are the steps to have my child baptized?

The parents are to be registered and active members at a Catholic parish and are to attend a baptism preparation class within the past 2 years. Please refer to the following links for details:

### **9) What if I have already taken the Baptism Preparation class?**

If within the past 2 years, parents have taken the class at St. Ann's, another parish, they do not have to attend the class again.

### **GODPARENTS**

What are the requirements for being a godparent?

According to the requirements of the Catholic Church's Canon Law (872-874), at least one must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and

At least 16 years of age

Received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation

If married, it must be a valid sacramental marriage

Not be bound by canonical penalties

Not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.

The second godparent, if not Catholic, must be a baptized Christian; he/she is called a witness.

Does it cost anything to have my child baptized?

We do ask for a donation to cover the cost of the cleaning of the church and materials used. It is customary to give a gift (stipend) to the celebrant of baptism. The amount is at your discretion.

Please turn in all the required documentation listed below 3 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Failure to do so will result in having the baptism date rescheduled.

-Child's original birth certificate

-Baptism Registration Form (This is filled out in the parish office)

-Baptism Fee. (This covers materials/cleaning of the church)

-Godparent Testimonial Form (PLEASE read through the requirements)

-Parents/ Godparents must take Pre-Baptismal course.

Please reach out to Karen for any additional questions.

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