



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC PARISH
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BAPTISM SACRAMENT GUIDE

- 1) Children who are older than 7 years will need to register in the Religious Education Program and take classes for a specific time before being baptized.
- 2) A copy of the child's Birth Certificate must be provided with the Baptism Application.
- 3) Both parents must agree in baptizing their child in the Catholic Faith.
- 4) If the parents do not belong to our parish, they will need to obtain a permission (Letter of Permission) from their parish to baptize their child at St. John the Apostle.
- 5) The godparents who are not registered at our parish will need to obtain permission from their parish; this permission document is called a Sponsor Certificate.
- 6) In accord with Canon Law 874, to be a Godparent for Baptism a person must be:
 - a) A baptized Catholic, at least 16 years old, who has also received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, and is practicing their faith, which means they are actively attending mass regularly.
 - b) If married, their wedding should have been celebrated in a Catholic Church by a priest or deacon.
 - c) A mature enough person to undertake this responsibility.
 - d) A member of the Catholic Church canonically free to carry out this office.
 - e) Someone other than the father, mother, spouse or fiancé of the one to be baptized.
 - f) Parents cannot be godparents, neither fiancé nor spouse of the person to be baptized.
 - g) A person who has not been baptized, he or she cannot be chosen to be a godparent, nor be a Christian Witness.
 - h) If there are two godparents, they should be a man and a woman.
- 7) It is required that the parents and the godparents all be present in a Pre-Baptismal Class prior to the celebration of the Baptism Sacrament. The objective of this class is to give a general explanation regarding the sacrament the child will be receiving.
- 8) The godparents who are not able to be present the day of the celebration of the Baptism can be represented by a Proxy. The requirements to act as a Proxy are the same as stated above in the requirements for godparents.
- 9) To reserve the Baptism Day, we will need to collect a donation of \$100.00, for community baptism. If the family chooses a private baptism, the donation is \$300.00.
- 10) Please contact the parish office to obtain more information about the dates and times available to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.