



## **Baptism Preparation Guidelines**

Congratulations on the birth of your child. We, with you, thank our Gracious God for the gift of your child. We thank you for bringing your child to be baptized into the Catholic faith.

These guidelines are to help you in properly preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism.

## **Requirements for Baptism**

### **Parents**

Because of the natural relationship, parents have the most important role in the baptism and life of their child. You along with God co-created a human life now seek to have your child as a member of God's Church. You are accepting for your child the rights and privileges as well as the obligations of Roman Catholics. Therefore, it is imperative that you raise your child as an active member of God's Family, that is the Church. After the celebration of the Sacrament it is the responsibility of the parents, in their gratitude to God and in fidelity to the duty they have undertaken, to enable their child to know God, whose adopted child they have become, to receive confirmation, and to participate in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore,

Parents must be members of St. Benedict's parish.

A **letter of permission** is needed, if the parents live outside the parish.

Parents are required to attend a **Baptismal Instruction Class**. The class is held in the **Convent** on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. (Except for major holidays)

So important is the obligation in bringing up the children according to God's law and His holy Church, they are to be helped by Christian Sponsors or godparents.

## **Godparents**

Are to help the parents in their duties as Christian mothers and fathers. Godparents also represent the extended family of the Church. The role of godparent is much more than cultural or ceremonial. The Church makes certain demands of the Christian Sponsor.

1. Must be a baptized Christian.
2. At least, one godparent must be Catholic.
3. If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other female.
4. The Catholic godparent must have received the other Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
5. Must be at least 14 years of age.
6. The godparents need a sponsor certificate from their Parish Church.

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## **Other Information**

- ❖ Families are invited to the **11:00am Mass for Baptisms. (there will be reserved seating for you, and your family, in the front pews of the church)**
- ❖ Parents must present the official State or City **Birth Certificate** when registering for Baptism.
- ❖ Changes in the Baptismal Register of this Church cannot be changed at a later date unless so ordered by a Civil or Ecclesiastical Court of Law.
- ❖ Please note, because four or five other families are involved, please arrive at the Church at least **fifteen minutes before the Mass, reserved seating will be in the front pews of the church.**
- ❖ A **fee** of \$100.00 is to be paid on the day of Baptism.

