

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism Guidelines for the Baptism of infant and young children

**Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Catholic Church
Diocese of Victoria in Texas
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PURPOSE OF A BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

- To further one's knowledge and understanding of the nature of Baptism, as well as fully appreciating the joy and responsibilities of being a member of the Church.
- To invite parents and godparents to evaluate and intensify their own connectedness to the Church and to our parish family.
- To emphasize the religious aspect of baptism over and above its social or cultural importance. As a practicing Catholic, each parent and godparent is encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before celebrating your child's baptism. The Sacrament is offered each Saturday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and each weekday at 5:30 pm (before the 6:00 pm Mass)

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

1. Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card.
2. As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life. Keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
3. Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letter or gifts that celebrate holy events; Christmas, Easter, First Communion, Confirmation and personal growth events;

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graduation, first job, engagements. (Gift suggestions: religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)

BAPTISMAL CLASSES

A Baptismal preparation program is held bi-monthly from 10:00 am until 11:00 am in the Auditorium of the Education Building (Building B). Parents and godparents, and any Christian witnesses MUST attend the session.

Parents, godparents, and christian witnesses who have already taken baptismal instruction within the last five years will not have to retake the class. A letter from the parish sponsoring the class is needed for exemption. For all other, class information is listed below.

The schedule is subject to change

MONTH	DATE OF REGISTRATION	DATE OF CLASS
JULY	7.5.2017	7.9.2017
SEPTEMBER	9.6.2017	9.10.2017
SEPTEMBER	9.10.2017	9.14.2017
OCTOBER	10.8.2017	10.12.2017
NOVEMBER	11.5.2017	11.9.2017
NOVEMBER	11.8.2017	11.12.2017
DECEMBER	12.10.2017	12.14.2017
JANUARY	1.7.2018	1.11.2018
JANUARY	1.10.2018	1.14.2018
FEBRUARY	2.4.2018	2.8.2018
MARCH	3.4.2018	3.8.2018
MARCH	3.7.2018	3.11.2018
APRIL	4.8.2018	4.12.2018
MAY	5.6.2018	5.10.2018
MAY	5.9.2018	5.13.2018
JULY	7.8.2018	7.8.2018
JULY	7.12.2018	7.12.2018
AUGUST	8.5.2018	8.9.2018
SEPTEMBER	9.5.2018	9.9.2018
SEPTEMBER	9.9.2018	9.13.2018
OCTOBER	10.7.2018	10.11.2018
NOVEMBER	11.4.2018	11.8.2018
NOVEMBER	11.7.2018	11.11.2018
DECEMBER	12.9.2018	12.13.2018

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The celebration of Baptism will take place on the last Sunday of each month, after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass or Saturday evening after the 6:00 pm Vigil Mass. A maximum of 5 baptisms will be scheduled at any one time slot. Please notify the Baptism coordinator at the church of your preferred date.

DATE OF SCHEDULED BAPTISM AFTER THE 6:00 PM VIGIL MASS	DATE OF SCHEDULED BAPTISM AFTER THE 11:00 AM MASS	DATE ALL PAPERWORK IS DUE FOR THIS BAPTISM SESSION.
7.8.2017	7.9.2017	6.25.2017
7.29.2017	7.30.2017	7.16.2017
8.26.2017	8.27.2017	8.13.2017
9.23.2017	9.24.2017	9.10.2017
10.28.2017	10.29.2017	10.15.2017
11.25.2017	11.26.2017	11.12.2017
12.30.2017	12.31.2017	12.17.2017
1.27.2018	1.28.2018	1.14.2018
2.24.2018	2.25.2018	2.11.2018
3.24.2018	3.25.2018	3.11.2018
4.28.2018	4.29.2018	4.15.2018
5.26.2018	5.27.2018	5.13.2018
6.23.2018	6.24.2018	6.10.2018
7.28.2018	7.29.2018	7.15.2018
8.25.2018	8.26.2018	8.12.2018
9.29.2018	9.30.2018	9.16.2018
10.27.2018	10.28.2018	10.14.2018
11.24.2018	11.25.2018	11.11.2018
12.29.2018	12.30.2018	12.16.2018

Parents and godparents who are Catholic, but not parishioners at our parish are required to bring a letter of permission from their home parish for baptism at Holy Family Catholic Church. The letter must be presented before a date of baptism is set.

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REGISTERING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism registration forms may be found online at <http://www.hfccvic.org/baptism-registration-form> or obtained in the church office. Scheduling of the Sacrament of Baptism will not be finalized without the child's state birth certificate, verification of classes, copy of baptismal certificates with notations from the godparents, and letter of suitability from godparents' parish, if other than Holy Family. All information must be turned in at least two weeks before requested Baptism date.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARENTS

Parents wishing to baptize a child must be currently registered members of the parish. Those who are not members of the parish or who no longer live in Victoria must have a letter from their home parish giving permission for the baptism to take place at Holy Family Catholic Church. The letter must be presented at the time of registration.

Parents should be practicing Catholics attending Mass each Sunday. If married, the couple should be married in the Catholic Church. If the marriage is not blessed (convalidated) by the Church, it is recommended that you contact the office about getting your marriage blessed (convalidated).

Please remind your guests/parents/godparents that chewing gum is NEVER acceptable in church. Young children attending the ceremony should not be left without supervision.

Please plan to arrive at church at least 15 minutes before the 11:00 am Mass begins. There is no reserved seating in the church, so your family may seat wherever they like.

REQUIREMENTS OF GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM

Godparents must be at least 16 years of age and not a parent of the person to be baptized.

Godparents **MUST** be practicing Catholics who have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) (Canon 892) and whose lives give evidence of their religious commitment. If the godparents are not members of our parish, a letter from their parish must be presented attesting to their qualification to be a sponsor.

Godparents may be single; however, godparents **MAY NOT** be "living together" outside of the Sacrament of Marriage. If a godparent is married, he/she must be married in the Catholic church.

One Catholic godparent, male or female is sufficient; but there may be two, one male and one female.

A baptized person who is a non-Catholic may not serve as a godparent but may act as a Christian witness.

***"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them;
for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs."***

-Matthew 19:14

