

# 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 Mondays and Fridays 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**

Completion of a Baptismal Class is required before the Baptism is scheduled.

A Baptismal preparation program is typically held bi-monthly from 10:00 am until 11:00 am in the Auditorium of the Education Building (Building B), and the second Thursday of Each Month at 6:30 pm. Parents and godparents, and Christian witnesses (If applicable) 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. Classes may also be taken at another Catholic parish, a letter attesting to attendance and completion is needed for exemption. Holy Family's class information is listed below.

*The schedule is subject to change*

MONTH	DATE OF REGISTRATION	DATE OF CLASS
NOVEMBER	11.4.2018	11.8.2018
NOVEMBER	11.7.2018	11.11.2018
DECEMBER	12.9.2018	12.13.2018
JANUARY	01.03.2019	01.10.2019
JANUARY	01.10.2019	01.13.2019
FEBRUARY	2.18.2019	02.21.2019 <sup>(1)</sup>
MARCH	3.07.2019	3.10.2019
MARCH	3.11.2018	3.14.2019
APRIL	4.06.2019	4.11.2019
MAY	5.06.2019	5.09.2019
MAY	5.15.2019	5.19.2019 <sup>(2)</sup>
JUNE	6.10.2019	6.13.2019

(1) Moved to the 3rd Thursday due to a scheduling conflict.

(2) Moved to the 3rd Sunday due to a scheduling conflict.

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The celebration of Baptism will take place on the fourth 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.
10.27.2018	10.28.2018	10.14.2018
11.24.2018	11.25.2018	11.11.2018
*12.15.2018	*12.16.2018	12.06.2018
01.26.2019	01.27.2019	01.16.2019
02.23.2019	02.24.2019	02.13.2019
03.23.2019	03.24.2019	03.13.2019
04.27.2019	04.28.2019	4.17.2019
**05.18.2019	**05.19.2019	05.08.2019
06.22.2019	06.23.2019	06.12.2019

\* Due to the Christmas schedule, Baptisms for December will take place either 12.15.2018 or 12.16.2018

\*\* Due to Memorial Day Weekend, Baptisms for May will take place either 5.18.2019 or 5.19.2019

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.

## 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.

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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.

A **current** Baptism certificate with Sacramental notations is required of all Baptismal sponsors

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.



***Baptismal Checklist – Please note, a Baptism date is not confirmed until ALL the paperwork is in.***

***\_\_\_ Registration of the child for the Sacrament, available online or from the office***

***\_\_\_ Verification of completion of Baptism Class for \_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_ Father  
\_\_\_ Godmother \_\_\_ Godfather \_\_\_ Christian Witness (if Applicable)***

***\_\_\_ Birth certificate from the city/county of the child to be baptized***

***\_\_\_ Current Baptismal Certificate with sacramental notations for \_\_\_ Godmother \_\_\_ Godfather***

***\_\_\_ Letter from registered parish (if parish is not Holy Family, Victoria) for  
\_\_\_ Godmother \_\_\_ Godfather attesting that they are active parishioners and have permission  
to the be sponsors.***

*“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*

