

Parish Guidelines for the Sacrament of Baptism of Infants

Welcome! We welcome your family on this joyous occasion of the celebration of your child's/godchild's baptism! We look forward to assisting your family in preparing for the baptism of your infant.

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to the Spirit...through Baptism we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and are made sharers in her mission. (CCC #1213)

The baptism preparation session at Holy Family is designed to provide the formation and information needed to fully understand the Sacrament of Baptism and your role as a Catholic parent/godparent.

Who can ask to have an infant/child baptized at Holy Family? Parents, at least one of whom is a baptized, practicing Catholic, in good standing, who has attended a Baptism Formation class, may have their child baptized at Holy Family Parish. Parents are asked to provide verification of attendance at a Catholic baptism formation class.

When is the baptism preparation session held? A session is held at Holy Family on the second Saturday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (January, March, May, July, September, November)

Where is the baptism session held? At the parish in the Family Life Center/Gonzales Room.

Should I attend the class before or after the birth of my child? It is strongly recommended, but not required, that you attend the Baptism Formation Class before your child is born.

What are the requirements for parents? At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing, who is committed to raising the child in the Catholic faith. Attendance at the 3-hour Baptism Formation Session is required before the child is baptized. It is strongly encouraged that both parents attend the Baptism Formation Session. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required before the baptism (This is a policy of the Diocese of Dallas.) Please give a copy of the child's birth certificate to the baptism coordinator at parish office.

What are the requirements for godparents (sponsors)? The godparent promises to support and assist the parents (or take over) in raising the child in the Catholic faith, and be a mentor to the child in the Catholic faith. Usually a child has two godparents, but only one is necessary. Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, practicing Catholics, and have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. If married, the marriage must be according to the laws of the Catholic Church. Godparents are required to complete and provide verification of a 3-hour Baptism Formation Session before the child's baptism. A non-Catholic Christian may be a Christian Witness together with a Catholic godparent.

What if I have already attended baptism formation? If parents or godparents have attended a Baptism formation within the *past three years*, the class does not have to be repeated. If more than three years have elapsed, parents and godparents are asked to attend a class.

Is childcare available during the session? Childcare is available for children ages 6-months and older. Pre-registration for childcare is required. We must know the number of children needing childcare in order to provide a safe environment for them. You are welcome to bring infants to class with you.

What is the cost? We ask that you pay a \$25 registration fee to help cover the cost of the materials. This is payable BEFORE the day of the class. If there is a financial concern, please call us.

How do I register? Please complete and mail the registration form or bring it to the church office. Or call the baptism coordinator at the church office and she will take your information over the phone. It only takes a few minutes.