



## Infant Baptism

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Catholic Church, a welcoming of your child into the Christian family. From the baptismal font is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes: *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”* (1 Corinthians 12:13) Through Baptism we receive the grace of God and become sharers in the Church’s mission. It is the first of three sacraments of initiation and is the basis of the whole Christian life.

This information is **ONLY** for the baptism of **children under six years of age**. Older children, because they are capable of learning about their faith, must take **religious instruction** before being baptized. Please call the Faith Formation Office (239) 283-0525 for more information about those classes.

The Baptism of your infant child is an expression of your desire to share your faith with your child. Faith is a gift from God, a gift that needs to be nourished. We do this through prayer, Scripture reading, regular attendance at Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation, actively participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and being of service to other people. In the sacrament of Baptism your child is being initiated into the Catholic Church because you, as parents, are promising God and the Church to raise your child in the practice of the Catholic faith. You are taking on a great responsibility of being the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. May your example of day-to-day living of the Catholic faith make you the very best of teachers.

## Procedures to Prepare Your Child for Infant Baptism:

- A prayerful reflection over the choice of godparents.
- Registration and interview
- Participation of parents in a pre-baptismal class
- Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

### 1. Godparents

The selection of the child's godparents is an important decision and should be made with the child's growth in faith in mind. You may choose **one** Godfather and/or **one** Godmother. Godparents accept the responsibility, along with you, of providing for the faith formation of your child in the Catholic Church. Their beliefs and lifestyle should reflect the responsibility they are accepting. Consequently, the Church **requires** the following of the Godfather and Godmother:

- ✓ They are **practicing Catholics**, i.e., they attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly.
- ✓ They are at least **sixteen years of age**.
- ✓ They have received the sacrament of **Confirmation**.
- ✓ If married, they are **married in the Catholic Church**.

After considering these qualities, the parents should select the godparents for their child. A non-Catholic Christian may take the place of **one** of the godparents and stand as a Christian witness along with the Catholic godparent.

## **2. Registration and Interview**

- ✓ Fill out the registration form completely and bring it to the parish office.
- ✓ Priest / Deacon will give you a call to schedule an appointment.
- ✓ If you live within the boundaries of this parish and have not registered yet, please come earlier (before your scheduled appointment with the priest/deacon) and fill out a parish registration form for your family.

## **3. Pre-baptismal Class**

Both parents are strongly encouraged attend the pre-baptismal class. The purpose of this class is to gain a fuller appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith.

## **4. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism**

Upon completion of the pre-baptismal class and receipt of the godparents' forms, a date for the celebration will be confirmed. Baptisms usually take place on Saturday mornings. Please inform the interviewing priest/deacon at the time of registration when you wish to have your child baptized. It can be tentatively scheduled at that time and confirmed after the class is completed.

# Baptism Registration

**PARENTS:** Please fill all information below prior to your interview with the priest/deacon. Write the names exactly as you wish them to appear on the baptismal certificate. Circle your choice where indicated. Once the form is filled out, **BOTH** parents are to sign their names on the next page.

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ City and state of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Was child adopted? Yes No Was child previously baptized? Yes No

Parents' address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Father:** \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

If baptized Catholic : First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Do you attend Mass: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No Somewhat

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No

**Mother:** \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

If baptized Catholic: First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Do you attend Mass: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No Somewhat

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No

**Marital status of parents: Married Single Divorced**

If married, please circle whether:

**Married in the Catholic Church Married in other church or chapel Married by Court/Judge**

Are you registered in St. Katharine Drexel? YES NO

**Proposed date of Baptism:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Godfather:** \_\_\_\_\_

Over 16 yrs. of age?    Yes    No    Baptized Catholic?    Yes    No

Attends Mass weekly?    Yes    No    Confirmed?    Yes    No

Is he married?    Yes    No    If married, was marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest?    Yes    No

Does he receive communion regularly?    Yes    No    Is he a member of this parish?    Yes    No

If not, to what parish does he belong? \* \_\_\_\_\_

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? \_\_\_\_\_

Will any proxy be used?    Yes    No

**Godmother:** \_\_\_\_\_

Over 16 yrs. of age?    Yes    No    Baptized Catholic?    Yes    No

Attends Mass weekly?    Yes    No    Confirmed?    Yes    No

Is she married?    Yes    No    If married, was marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest?    Yes    No

Does she receive communion regularly?    Yes    No    Is she a member of this parish?    Yes    No

If not, to what parish does she belong? \* \_\_\_\_\_

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? \_\_\_\_\_

Will any proxy be used?    Yes    No

### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

**We are aware that we must demonstrate an active commitment in the practice of our faith before our child will be baptized at Saint Katharine Drexel Church**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Father*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Mother*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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**For Office Use Only**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Priest/Deacon Interviewing*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Class*

**Pre-baptismal Class Attendance**

	<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Father</b>		
<b>Mother</b>		

**Letter from Pastor of Godfather received** \_\_\_\_\_ **by** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date* *Initials*

**Letter from Pastor of Godmother received** \_\_\_\_\_ **by** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date* *Initials*

**Date of Baptism:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minister of Baptism:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval of the Pastor/Administrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*See the Godparent Form for Infant Baptism



## Godparent Form for Infant Baptism

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First* *Last*

Prospective Godparents: *After you fill out this form completely, please take it to the parish where you're registered.*

Dear Godparent,

Before signing, please read the following church requirements for godparents. In accordance with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church, (Canons 872, 874, 892, 893), to be a godparent, a person must:

- Be a practicing Catholic (i.e. attends Mass and receives Holy Communion regularly), selected by the candidates family and with the intention of fulfilling this role;
- Be at least 16 years of age;
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation;
- If married, be married in the Catholic Church;
- Be neither the father nor the mother of the person to be baptized.

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I solemnly declare that I am a practicing member of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish  
in \_\_\_\_\_ and I fulfill all the requirements of the canon law to be a godparent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prospective godparent's signature**

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**TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE GODPARENT'S PARISH**

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is registered and practicing

member of \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish Name*

in : \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State*

**I have no knowledge of any impediments preventing him/her to become a godparent for the  
Sacrament of Baptism.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of the Pastor/Administrator of prospective godparent's parish*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Church Seal