



## **Infant Baptism**

We are so excited that you are seeking baptism for your child. Baptism is a beautiful beginning to a lifelong journey of faith in Jesus Christ. Together with the parents and sponsors, our entire Catholic Family is happy to be here to offer love and support to help your child grow in the faith. The following information is intended to help you and your family best prepare for the sacrament of baptism and the faith commitment you are about to enter with your child.

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 6 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.

### **1. Requirements for Parents:**

Parents should be registered members of St. Katharine Drexel for at least 3 months and attending Mass regularly before registering for a pre-baptismal class. Attendance is verified through weekly receipt of offertory envelopes. While waiting for your pre-printed St. Katharine Drexel envelopes, you can use any envelope with your name and the word “*Baptism*” on the front and put in Sunday’s collection basket (*with a free will offering*). After you have been a registered and practicing member of the parish for at least 3 months, please call the parish office (239) 283-9501 to register for pre-baptismal class.

### **2. Requirements for Godparents/Sponsors:**

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 (sponsors) for their child. **At least one godparent (sponsor)** must obtain a letter from the pastor of their home parish with the parish seal embedded in the letter, stating that they are practicing Catholic in a good standing.

### **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 receipt of the godparents’ signed forms and completion of the pre-baptismal class, Priest or Deacon will schedule a date for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.





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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.**

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*Signature of the Pastor of Godparent's parish*

*Church's seal*