

### **The Garments:**

The proper color of clothing for Baptism is WHITE, a symbol of being clothed in Christ. The candidate for Baptism should arrive at the church dressed in ordinary clothes. At the appropriate time following the Baptism in the font, the child will be dressed in his/her white baptismal garments which signifies the newness of life the child now shares with Christ.

### **The Candle:**

The candle presented at Baptism can become a beautiful remembrance for the person to carry through life. It can be an occasion for parents to tell a child about his/her baptism and can be lit at home during the celebration of special event, First Communion, or at Easter time. Baptismal symbols or the child's name can be used to decorate the candle used in the baptismal liturgy. You are encouraged to decorate a white candle to be used in the Liturgy of Baptism.

The following forms are required at least **2 weeks before** the Baptism:

- Child's Birth certificate  
(CITY / COUNTY / STATE ONLY)
- Proof of Sacramental Marriage from the God-parents
- Proof of Baptismal Preparation (if applicable)
- Permission to baptize in this parish (if applicable)

**There is a required registration fee to baptize in this parish of \$20 from the parents and \$20 from the god-parents.**

**This fee will cover expenses of utilities for the classroom and church, forms and certificates, clerical work, use of the classroom and church, equipment and amenities.**

**A 'Certificate of Baptismal Preparation' will be issued after the completion of two 2 hour classes.**

### **IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES**

**Classes – Mondays @ 6:30 - 9 PM,  
\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_**

**Last date for turning in required documentation is: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_**

**\*\* If required paperwork is not complete before the baptism date, the CHILD CAN NOT BE BAPTIZED that day.**

**Baptism Date and time:**

**Sunday - \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_  
At - \_\_\_:\_\_\_ p.m.**

## **Infant Baptism Preparation Guide**



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## The two Great Principles:

1.) Baptism, which is necessary for salvation, is a sign and the means of God's prevenient love, which frees us from original sin and communicates to us a share in divine life. Considered in itself, the gift of these blessings to maintain infants must not be delayed.

2.) Assurances must be given that the gift granted can grow by an authentic education in the faith and Christian life, in order to fulfill the true meaning of the sacrament. As a rule, these assurances are to be given by the parents or close relatives, although various substitutions are possible within the Christian community. But if these assurances are not really serious, there can be grounds for delaying the sacrament; and if they are certainly nonexistent, the sacrament should even be refused. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Instruction on Infant Baptism, n. 28*)

## The Role of Godparents (Sponsors) at Baptism:

1.) The Godparents, together with the parents are present to profess the Church's faith, in which the child is being baptized. Therefore, in order to be appointed as sponsor, the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.

2.) In order to carry out the role of sponsor (godparent), the person must:

- a) be appointed by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the pastor or minister of baptism.
- b) be mature enough to undertake this responsibility, having completed their 16<sup>th</sup> year.
- c) be a Catholic who has received the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist); and lives a life of faith which befit the role to be undertaken.
- d) not be bound by any canonical penalty (an example: if the sponsor is married he/she must be in Catholic marriage, if not; the person can not serve as a sponsor (godparent).
- e) not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.

3.) A Christian of another communion (baptized, non-Catholic) may be admitted, with a Catholic sponsor, but only as a **Christian Witness** (not as a godparent). In these cases, the responsibility for the Christian education of the child belongs to the godparent who is a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

4.) An unbaptized person **CANNOT** act as a godparent/sponsor or Christian witness in a Catholic Baptism.

5.) At least one sponsor is required for the celebration of Baptism. At most two are permitted, in which case one must be male and the other female.

## Place and day of the Baptism:

1.) To reflect the communal nature of the faith and the connection to Confirmation and Eucharist; Baptism should take place in the parish Church and **NOT** in a private home.

2.) For this reason, Sunday should be the normal day for the celebration of the Sacrament.

3.) The actual day and time will be determined in the registration session.

## Names:

Care should be taken that the candidate for Baptism receives a name not foreign to Christian mentality.