



Congratulations on the birth of your child! Whether or not this is your first child, this experience invites you to reflect upon the meaning of *your vocation in marriage, your part as co-creators with God as responsible parents according to His plan and your family life* in the church.

Please read this package carefully, complete the Application Form and the Proof of Practice of Faith for parents and godparents and bring them back to the Parish Office along with the required documents.

The dates for Baptism and the Baptismal Preparation classes will be confirmed after all the requirements are met.

If an appointment with a priest is required, the secretary will arrange it.

BAPTISMAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baptism Certificates

A child can be baptized Roman Catholic on the strength of one Roman Catholic parent, with a baptism certificate. If both parents are Roman Catholic, a copy of the baptism certificate of the parents must be submitted.

Baptism certificate/s of the godparent/s must also be submitted along with the Proof of Practice of Faith.

2. Birth Certificate

The birth certificate of the child to be baptized, indicating the complete name of the father and the maiden name of the mother must be submitted.

3. Submission of Documents: Submit documents only when they are complete by making an appointment with the secretary at **905 273 6630 extension 228**.

4. Registration Fee of \$100

The fee will cover the cost of books and reading materials, which will be handed out during the classes to each family.

5. Attendance to 3 Mandatory Classes for Parents and Godparents

It is mandatory for *parents and godparents* to attend these classes even if you have already celebrated the Baptism of other children in your family.

As parents, you have the right to be properly instructed in the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations, which are attached to it. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with other families from the parish who are also presenting their children for Baptism that month.

Missing of Classes

If you miss any of the three mandatory classes, the *baptism date* will be delayed until the classes are completed. There will be no make-up class and you have to attend the class you missed in the next month.

6. Registered Parishioners

Parents who present their children for baptism at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish must be registered parishioners. Since Catholics have a moral obligation to support the Church, all registered parishioners are expected to use *Sunday Offertory Envelopes*.

If you are returning to the practice of your faith, you must first register at the Parish Office and then wait for three (3) months before a date for baptism maybe arranged. This gives your family an opportunity and a reasonable period of time to renew your faith, to attend weekly mass, to read the bible and get to know the parish community.

More Information

THE DAY OF BAPTISM - Attached is the 2020 Schedule of the Baptism Classes. Families are expected to attend Sunday Mass the following the baptism date.

Parents, Godparents (and Christian Witnesses) and the children to be presented for baptism are asked to sit in the front pews; family and friends will sit behind them.

Other children of the family may sit in the front pew, but those who may need special care during the Rite of Baptism should be in the charge of a responsible adult.

- **Please note that due to other sacraments like weddings, the 2:00pm schedule may be changed.**

Baptismal Garment - The Rite of Baptism makes reference to a white garment, the outward sign of our Christian dignity. The parish does not supply a baptismal garment.

Choosing a Name - At least one of the names given to your child should be in keeping with Christian tradition. A name foreign to a Christian mentality is to be avoided.

Baptismal Candle – The parish provides a baptismal candle. Immediately following the ritual of pouring the water, one of the sponsors will be presented with the candle which will be lit from the Paschal (Easter) Candle.

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Attendance to the Baptism Preparation – The babies to be baptized are welcome to attend. On the other hand, small children are discouraged from attending as they often become distracting or disruptive to you and to the other parents.

Baptism Offering for the Church – A special Baptism Envelope is provided for your offering. Please obtain this envelope from the office before the ceremony or anytime you are at church. You may give it to the Celebrant after the baptism ceremony. The suggested baptism offering is \$50.00.

Certificate of Baptism – A Baptismal Certificate is given to each family following the Rite of Baptism. Examine it carefully for correct information. If in order, keep the certificate in a safe place together with all your family records. This is a very important document. Return the certificate to the Parish Office if correction is necessary.

Photographs / Videos – Photographs and videos may be taken during the ceremony, but families and friends are reminded that they are **present for a sacred ceremony** and are not there primarily to take photographs or videos. All are invited to participate actively in the Rite of Baptism and are asked not to enter the sanctuary area of the church, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. We expect, that the photographer/videographer will **respect the policies of our church at all times** while within our property.

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Some Theological Reflections on Infant Baptism

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, your child will be given a Christian name and will be welcomed as a new member into our community of faith, the Church.

+ The sign of the cross will be traced on the forehead of your child reminding us that the way of the cross leads to *the glory of the resurrection and God's gift of eternal life. In baptism, we die to sin and rise to a new life in Christ,* making present the Paschal Mystery.

The pouring of the water symbolizes the washing away of the Original Sin in order to share in the divine life of God by receiving the gift of faith, hope and charity.

Baptism is the first of three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Holy Communion and Confirmation, later on in your child's life, will complete the process of initiation into full membership in the Catholic church. Baptism is also the gateway to all the other sacraments.

Spiritual Preparation



The graces of the Sacrament of Marriage are generously given by our Lord to married couples who enter marriage in the state of grace, and renewed, especially in the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. These graces give

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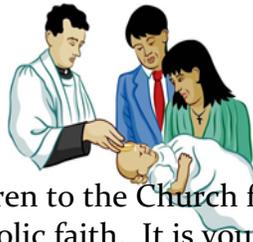
you special strength to bear with each other's faults, to grow in holiness, to become responsible parents and to open the doors of your home in Christian Charity to others.

In the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** celebrated before marriage, before the Baptism of your children and frequently throughout your married life, the Lord renews the graces of marriage. Parents and sponsors are strongly invited to go to Confession some time before the day of the Baptism.

The Christian family has its highest expression in the Eucharist, the very source of Christian Marriage. As a representation of Christ's sacrifice of love for the Church, the Eucharist is a fountain of charity in which the family finds the foundation and soul of its communion and its mission.

Only those in full communion with the Catholic Church, those who have fasted for one hour, and those who are in the state of grace may be admitted to the Most Holy Eucharist.

Responsibilities of Parents



As parents, when you present your children to the Church for Baptism, you accept the responsibility of training them in the practice of the Catholic faith. It is your duty to bring them to keep God's commandments as Christ has taught us: *by loving God and our neighbor*. You will *reject sin, profess your faith* in Jesus Christ and His Church and promise to make it your constant care to bring your children up in the practice of the Faith.

As parents, you are the first teachers of your children in faith and morals. You must teach them by word and good example so that the life God gave them is kept safe from the poison of sin. You must teach them how to pray, participate with them at Sunday Mass every week, and prepare them for First Penance and First Holy Communion.

Responsibilities of Godparents

During the Rite of Baptism, Godparents promise to help you as parents in your duty as a Christian mother and father. They also reject sin, profess their faith in Christ Jesus and the Church.

Choosing Godparents

Both Godparents should be Catholics, since they act as representatives of the community of faith into which new members are adopted as children of God. Godparents should be people who affirm and encourage you in the practice of your faith and who would challenge you if you neglect your responsibilities as Christian parents.

Your child can be baptized on the strength of one Roman Catholic godparent (Canon Law 874.11), must have received BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and EUCHARIST and is a practicing Catholic attending

Mass and must at least be sixteen years of age. If you choose to have 2 Godparents, they must be a man and a woman but NOT two men or two women.

NON-CATHOLIC WITNESS (Cannon Law 874.2), is a BAPTIZED person belonging to a non-Catholic Christian faith of the ecclesial church. This person will NOT be called a Godparent, but a CHRISTIAN WITNESS.

You may have a Christian Witness ONLY with a Catholic Godparent NOT two Godparents & a Christian Witness.

The Role of a Godparent



To be chosen as a sponsor for Baptism is a special honour. 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 during this life and beyond. Become a special friend to your godchild:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, call or by sending a card;
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life;
- Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions they arise;
- Encourage a consistent life of faith by your good example;
- Participate in your godchild's First Communion and Confirmation if possible;
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their children;
- Challenge your godchild's parents if they neglect their duty as a Christian mother and father;
- Pray for your godchild and his/her family.
- **CONGRATULATIONS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.**

Due to Covid, our church has strict policies about wearing masks, contact tracing and sanitizing. We expect that all your family, guests, photographers, if any, will adhere to our policies. If anyone, refuses to comply, we shall have the right to refuse entry to this person/s.

