

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first weekend of the month (in English), and on the second weekend of the month (in Spanish).**

Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. The person who is baptized becomes a child of God, a member of the Church, and is freed of Original Sin.

Parents who ask for Baptism for their newborn children, enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, are responding by their faith to the gospel of Christ.

Children are baptized into the faith of the church; parents and godparents make a commitment to educating the child, when they are able to do so, in that same faith they now receive as a gift from God. Therefore, in order to baptize a child, there must be sufficient assurance that he will be educated in the faith in which he is now baptized.

If the child to be baptized is 6 years or older, they must attend Catechism class for one year before they can be baptized (they may be baptized after one year of catechism).

### **Parent Requirements and Responsibilities**

- 1 – Parents should be registered and practicing members of St. Joseph's parish for at least 3 months before making arrangements for Baptism. They should use the envelopes received so that their presence at mass can be verified.
2. – They should endeavor to educate their children in the faith and in the Christian life, which they express publicly in the celebration of Baptism.
3. - They should give the full names of the Godparents and the parish to which they belong, choosing exemplary Christian persons as godparents of their child, who have the qualities required by the church in order to be fulfil their role as Christian educators of their children.
4. – They must attend the Catechesis of preparation for Baptism offered by the parish.
5. – Thy must present the child's birth certificate at the parish office.

## **The Mission of the Godparents**

It is the mission of the godparents to ensure that their godchildren are educated in faith and in the Christian life, exercising this task together with the parents.

### **Requirements for Godparents:**

1. – Being at least 16 years of age.
2. - Having received the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. – Leading a life consistent with the faith.
  - a. Have received the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Church (not only a civil wedding, or simply united by mutual agreement).
  - b. Attending Mass regularly.
  - c. Being a registered member of a parish for at least 3 months.
4. – Attending the Catechesis of preparation for Baptism offered by the Parish.
5. – Submitting the following documents to the parish office:

### If the godparent belong to another parish:

- a. A letter from that parish as proof of the eligibility to be a sponsor.

### If the godparent belong to St. Joseph Parish:

- a. Certificate of Confirmation
- b. If he/she is married, certificate of Catholic Marriage.