

# BAPTISM PREPARATION GUIDELINES



Congratulations on the birth of your child! We, with you, thank our Gracious God for the gift of your child. We thank you for bringing your child to be baptized into the Catholic faith.

These guidelines are to help you in properly preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

### PARENTS

Because of the natural relationship, parents have the most important role in the Baptism and life of their child. You, along with God, co-created a human life and now seek to have your child as a member of God's Church. You are accepting for your child, the rights and privileges, as well as the obligations, of Roman Catholics. Therefore, it is imperative that you raise your child as an active member of God's Family, that is the Church. After the celebration of the Sacrament, it is the responsibility of the parents, in their gratitude to God and in fidelity to the duty they have undertaken, to enable their child to know God, whose adopted child they have become, to receive confirmation, and to participate in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore,

Parents must be members of either Immaculate Conception or Assumption Parishes, or

A letter of permission is needed, if the parents are parishioners elsewhere.

So important is the obligation in bringing up children according to God's law and His Holy Church, parents are to be helped by Christian sponsors or godparents.

#### GODPARENTS

Godparents are to help the parents in their duties as Christian mothers and fathers. Godparents also represent the extended family of the Church. The role of godparent is much more than cultural or ceremonial. The Church makes certain demands of the godparent or Christian sponsor:

1. Must be baptized Christian
2. At least one godparent must be Catholic.
3. If there are two godparents, one must be male and the other female.
4. The Catholic godparent must have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
5. Must be at least 14 years of age.

#### PRE-BAPTISMAL MEETING

First time parents and godparents need to attend a pre-Baptismal meeting. The meeting will explain the new responsibilities you have as Christian parents and as your child's first teachers in the ways of Faith. Godparents also need to attend a meeting, either at Immaculate Conception Church or in their home parish.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ❖ Baptisms are scheduled at 1:30 PM on most Sundays at Immaculate Conception. Baptisms are scheduled by request at Assumption for parishioners.
- ❖ Parents must present the official State or City Birth Certificate when registering their child for Baptism.
- ❖ Changes in the Baptism Register of this Church cannot be made at a later date unless so ordered by a Civil or Ecclesiastical Court of Law.
- ❖ Because four or five other families may be involved, please arrive at the Church at least ten minutes before the ceremony.
- ❖ An offering to the Church is customary.

#### BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS CLASSES:

Baptismal Catechesis (the Pre-Baptismal Meeting) is typically held on the second Thursday of each month in the Lower Church of Immaculate Conception from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The schedule is posted in the bulletin.

