

Having Your Child Baptized

at St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Navilleton, IN

A note from Fr. Joseph West, Pastor

I am happy that you want to have your child baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and here at St. Mary Parish. Please fill-out the enclosed Baptismal Registration Form and have the child's Godparents fill out their forms and get them signed by their pastor(s).

When those papers are in order, email me at **frjoe@nym.hush.com** to set-up a time when both parents or guardians can meet with me at the parish office. Bring the papers to our meeting and at that time we will review the Registration and Godparent forms and Schedule the date and time of the baptism. If while filling out the forms you have questions, the easiest way to contact me is at the email address above.

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#### **Baptism Requirements of the Roman Catholic Church**

- A. There is to be a well-founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such hope is lacking, the baptism is to be put off. This means, among other things, that the family should be attending church regularly. At least one parent, or the person who lawfully takes their place, must give consent. (cc. 868)
- B. Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday (cc. 856), in the church (cc. 857), and at St. Mary typically take place after the 10 am Mass, or at about 11 am.
- C. A Godparent, also known as a sponsor, must:
  - 1. Be at least 16 years of age and have the qualifications and intention of fulfilling this role.
  - 2. Be a Catholic who has received the sacrament of Confirmation and has already received the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the roll to be undertaken. They should read the sponsor certificate carefully to understand this.
  - 3. Provide a letter of good standing from his or her home parish (if not St. Mary) or use the provided sponsor certificate and have it signed by his or her pastor.
  - 4. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. (cc. 874)
- D. There is to be only one male sponsor and one female sponsor (cc. 873)
- E. A baptized Christian who belongs to a non-Catholic church community may not serve as a Catholic godparent but may be a "Christian witness" to the baptism along with a Catholic sponsor meeting the above requirements. (cc. 874 s2) One never baptized, cannot be a godparent. These guidelines come from the Code of Canon Law (cc.) of the Roman Catholic Church and apply in all Roman Catholic churches.

Fr. Joseph West, OFM Conv., Pastor  
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St. Mary of the Annunciation in Navilleton, IN  
St. John the Baptist in Starlight, IN