

# **Information Booklet for Seeking Child Baptism**

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church ~ Archdiocese of New Orleans

*The birth of a baby into a family is always a time of joyful celebration. It is also a time of re-consecration for the parents to the responsibility of rearing the child as God intends.*

*Here, at St. Joan of Arc, we are enthusiastic to assist parents and godparents in their duties to bring the faith to their children. Contact us whenever we can be of help.*

## **~ Sacrament of Baptism ~**

Infants & children under age 7 may be presented for the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents must be registered parishioners and attend a Baptism Seminar. Baptisms are generally celebrated one Sunday each month after the 10:00 am Mass (except during Lent).

If you are not registered in the parish, please do so. A Parish Registration form can be downloaded from our website: [www.sjachurch.com](http://www.sjachurch.com). This form can be mailed or dropped off to the Parish office or emailed to [dre@sjachurch.com](mailto:dre@sjachurch.com).

Children over age 7 who need to be baptized follow a different process of preparation. Please contact Linda Monistere, our Coordinator of Religious Education at (985) 651-1072 or email at [dre@sjachurch.com](mailto:dre@sjachurch.com).

## **~ Baptism Preparation Seminar ~**

When presenting a child for the Sacrament of Baptism, **parents and godparents** are required to attend one Baptism Seminar. The seminars are generally on the Thursday prior to Baptism, at 7:00 PM in the Family Life Center.

If you have attended a baptismal preparation seminar elsewhere you can request a letter from that church be sent to St. Joan of Arc Church verifying that you have attended the seminar. You may also attend the seminar at another parish church and have a letter of verification sent to the St. Joan of Arc Parish Office.

## **~ Requested Documentation ~**

Please return the following documentation to the parish office **2 weeks** before the desired baptism date:

o Child's Birth Certificate

o Baptism Application

o Parent's Testimonial

o Godparent's Testimonial (one needed for each godparent)

o Record of Baptismal Seminar attendance (needed only if a baptismal seminar was attended in a parish other than St. Joan of Arc)

# **Important Information for Selecting Godparents**

## **~ Godparents (Sponsors) ~**

Parents have the first duty to form their children in faith. (Canon Law 774.2) Godparents commit themselves to support the child's parents in this duty. They also take on a vital role in the child's life of faith; they must "set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity." (1 Timothy 4:12) Because of this supremely important duty, at least ONE godparent (sponsor) must meet all the qualifications outlined below:

## **~ Qualification of Sponsors/Godparents ~**

Canon 874 - To be admitted to the role of sponsor/godparent, a person must:

ς Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.

ς Be sixteen years of age.

ς Be a Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.

ς Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared. This indicates that Catholics cohabitating (living together without marriage) and Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage are ineligible. Invalid marriages (or marriages "outside the Church") are those which are not according to Catholic Church regulations.

ς Must not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

ς A person who was baptized into a non-Catholic ecclesial community (Protestant church) may not be admitted except as a Christian witness to baptism together with a Catholic sponsor/godparent. People who have been baptized Catholic but who no longer practice their faith may not serve as a Christian witness but are invited to speak with a priest about returning to the faith.

Additionally, Canon 873 tells us that one sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex. This means that there cannot be two sponsors of the same sex, and there cannot be more than two sponsors.

Finally, godparents (as noted above) must attend a baptismal seminar at St. Joan of Arc Parish or show a letter stating that they have attended one at another parish.

# St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church Baptism Application

All required paperwork must be submitted **2 weeks prior** to Baptism.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Name of Person receiving Sacrament of Baptism:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last Name* *First Name* *Middle Name*

Child's Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City* *State*

Name of Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First* *Middle*

Church Attendance: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Holiday's Only ☐ I do not attend

Name of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Maiden Name* *First* *Middle*

Church Attendance: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Holiday's Only ☐ I do not attend

Family Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street* *City* *Zip Code*

Telephone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Home Phone* *Cell Phone* *Work*

Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status of Parents (please check one): ☐ Not Married ☐ Married on \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

*If married, indicate the person who officiated at your wedding:*

☐ Catholic Priest or Deacon

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Minister of another denomination/church: Baptist, Episcopal, Non-Denominational, etc.

☐ Civil Official (Judge, Justice of the Peace, etc.)

Name of the child's father appears on the State Birth Certificate? ☐ Yes ☐ No\*\*

\*\* (If no, please contact the parish office for important information)

Is the family a registered parishioner at St. Joan of Arc: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Parish of Registration if not at St. Joan of Arc: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Seminar attended in the last 2 years? Yes No Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact us if you need any assistance completing this form (985) 652-9100

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

## Parental Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Statement of Catholic Parent(s)**

“It is my sincere hope and intention to raise my child in the Catholic faith and to do all in my power to assure through my own efforts that my child practices and grows in the Catholic faith.”

*By signing below, the Catholic parent(s) solemnly swear that the statement above is a true and correct indication of their intentions.*

*(Must be signed by at least one Catholic parent.)*

Father's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

## Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria to Serve as Godparent for Baptism

**The Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;**

1. Are you Sixteen years old or older: Yes \_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_
2. Were you baptized in a Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_
3. Were you married in a Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_\_ (Date:\_\_\_\_ Where:\_\_\_\_)  
or No \_\_\_\_
4. Have you attended a Baptismal Seminar? Yes \_\_\_\_ (Date:\_\_\_\_ Where:\_\_\_\_)  
or No \_\_\_\_

### Statement of Godparent

**“I meet the above stated criteria to serve as a Godparent, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith.”**

*By signing below, the proposed Godparent solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.*

Godparent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

## Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria to Serve as Godparent for Baptism

**The Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;**

1. Are you Sixteen years old or older: Yes \_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_
2. Were you baptized in a Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_
3. Were you married in a Catholic Church? Yes \_\_\_\_ (Date:\_\_\_\_ Where:\_\_\_\_)  
or No \_\_\_\_
4. Have you attended a Baptismal Seminar? Yes \_\_\_\_ (Date:\_\_\_\_ Where:\_\_\_\_)  
or No \_\_\_\_

### Statement of Godparent

**“I meet the above stated criteria to serve as a Godparent, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith.”**

*By signing below, the proposed Godparent solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.*

Godparent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent's Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_