

# THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

## **Baptism Guidelines for the Baptism of infants and children under six**

**Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Catholic Church  
Diocese of Victoria in Texas  
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### **PURPOSE OF A BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM**

- To further one's knowledge and understanding of the nature of Baptism, as well as fully appreciating the joy and responsibilities of being a member of the Church.
- To invite parents and godparents to evaluate and intensify their own connectedness to the Church and to our parish family.
- To emphasize the religious aspect of baptism over and above its social or cultural importance. As a practicing Catholic, each parent and godparent is encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before celebrating your child's baptism. The Sacrament is offered each Saturday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and Fridays at 5:30 pm (before the 6:00 pm Mass)

### **THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS**

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. 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 throughout this life and beyond.

There are ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

1. Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card.
2. As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life. Keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
3. Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letter or gifts that celebrate holy events; Christmas, Easter, First Communion, Confirmation and personal growth events; graduation, first job, engagements. (Gift suggestions: religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)

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## **BAPTISMAL CLASSES**

Completion of a Baptismal Class is required before the Baptism is scheduled.

A Baptismal preparation program is typically held the first Wednesday of Each Month at 6:00 pm in St. Peter's Auditorium (Bldg A). Parents, Godparents, and Christian witnesses (If applicable) MUST attend the session.

Parents, Godparents, and Christian witnesses who have already taken baptismal instruction within the last five years will not have to retake the class. A letter from the parish sponsoring the class is needed for verification. Classes may also be taken at another Catholic parish, a letter attesting to attendance is required.

Classes may also be taken online at Catechism Class.com

1. <https://www.catechismclass.com/>
2. <https://www.agapecatholicministries.com/shop/courses/baptism-prep>

The celebration of Baptism will be scheduled, once all the required paperwork is in, at the discretion of the Priest or Deacon.

Parents and godparents who are Catholic, but not parishioners at our parish are required to bring a letter of permission from their home parish for baptism at Holy Family Catholic Church. The letter must be presented before a date of baptism is set.

## **REGISTERING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptism registration forms may be found online at <http://www.hfccvic.org/baptism-registration-form> or obtained in the church office. Scheduling of the Sacrament of Baptism will not be finalized without the child's state birth certificate, verification of classes, copy of baptismal certificates with notations from the godparents, and letter of suitability from godparents' parish, if other than Holy Family. All information must be turned in at least **two weeks** before requested Baptism date.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARENTS**

Parents wishing to baptize a child must be currently registered members of the parish. Those who are not members of the parish or who no longer live in Victoria must have a letter from their home parish giving permission for the baptism to take place at Holy Family Catholic Church. The letter must be presented at the time of registration.

Parents should be practicing Catholics attending Mass each Sunday. If married, the couple should be married in the Catholic Church. If the marriage is not blessed (convalidated) by the Church, it is recommended that you contact the office about getting your marriage blessed (convalidated).

### **REQUIREMENTS OF GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM**

Godparents must be at least 16 years of age and not a parent of the person to be baptized.

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Godparents MUST be practicing Catholics who have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) (Canon 892) and whose lives give evidence of their religious commitment. If the godparents are not members of our parish, a letter from their parish must be presented attesting to their qualification to be a sponsor.

Godparents may be single; however, godparents MAY NOT be “living together” outside of the Sacrament of Marriage. If a godparent is married, he/she must be married in the Catholic Church.

A current Baptism certificate with Sacramental notations is required of all Baptismal sponsors

One Catholic godparent, male or female is sufficient; but there may be two, one male and one female.

A baptized person who is a non-Catholic may not serve as a godparent but may act as a Christian witness, providing they are of a Christian faith.



***Baptismal Checklist – Please note, a Baptism date is not confirmed until ALL the paperwork is in.***

\_\_\_ ***Registration of the child for the Sacrament, available online or from the office***

\_\_\_ ***Verification of completion of Baptism Class for*** \_\_\_ ***Mother*** \_\_\_ ***Father***  
\_\_\_ ***Godmother*** \_\_\_ ***Godfather*** \_\_\_ ***Christian Witness (if Applicable)***

\_\_\_ ***Birth certificate from the city/county of the child to be baptized***

\_\_\_ ***Current Baptismal Certificate with sacramental notations for*** \_\_\_ ***Godmother*** \_\_\_ ***Godfather***

\_\_\_ ***Letter from registered parish (if parish is not Holy Family, Victoria) for***  
\_\_\_ ***Godmother*** \_\_\_ ***Godfather attesting that they are active parishioners and have permission to be the sponsors.***

*“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them;  
For it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.”  
-Matthew 19:14*

