ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Guidelines for the Sacrament of Baptism

Dear Parents & God Parents:

We are excited to partner with you as your child begins their Christian journey through the Sacrament of Baptism! This guide will provide information vital to successfully registering and scheduling your child's baptism.

Documents Required for Baptism

1. ***Birth Certificate*** – Mandatory prior to the baptism
2. ***Class attendance certificates*** for parents and godparents
3. ***Letter of Permission*** - If the parents are registered in different parish
4. ***Godparent Verification*** form – Completed by Godparents
5. ***Letter of Good Standing*** - Godparents

IMPORTANT NOTE: ***No Baptism will be scheduled until all requirements are complete. Baptisms are not done during the season of Lent.***

The **Birth Certificate** must be turned into the parish office. A copy of the birth certificate is fine. This will be placed in your child's Sacramental file, not be returned to you.

The **Class Attendance** certificate will be issued after the Baptism Preparation class is completed. The person administering the class will send each person a copy of the certificate via email for future use and will forward a copy of the certificate to the parish office. The certificate will be valid for two (2) years from the date of the class.

Each parent and godparent are required to attend and complete a baptism preparation class prior to scheduling your child's baptism. The class may be done here at St Rita in the Desert, or in another parish. If done in another parish, a certificate of completion or a letter on parish letterhead signed by the pastor of the parish, parish secretary or class administrator, dated within 2 years, must be provided to the office at before the baptism is scheduled.

Baptism preparation classes at St Rita in the Desert are held the via ZOOM at a date and time agreed upon by the parents and Godparents.

If the parents of the child being baptized are not members of the parish, a letter of permission from their current parish is required to hold the baptism at St Rita in the Desert.

Godparents:

Only one godparent is required by Canon Law. If there are two godparents, one must be male and one must be female. Each godparent is required to complete the **Godparent Verification** form located on SFdSTucson.org / Sacraments and before the baptism preparation class.

Additionally, godparents must contact the parish where their sacramental records are kept (usually the parish they were baptized at) and request a **Letter of Good Standing** be sent to St Rita in the Desert, 13260 Colossal Cave Rd. Vail, Arizona 85641-9001).

Godparents, if married must be married in the Catholic Church or have had their civil marriage convalidated by the Church. If not married, they must not be living with a 'partner' or 'significant other' in a relationship outside of marriage.

If there is only one godparent, a Christian Witness may be designated. The person chosen for Christian Witness must be the opposite sex of the godparent and be baptized into any of the Christian denominations who practice Trinitarian Baptism. The Christian Witness must not object to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The parents of the child being baptized are responsible for coordinating all the requirements and documents and turning them in to the parish office.

Once all the requirements are completed, the pastor will set the date for Baptism. Do not show up at the parish for the baptism until all the requirements are completed and verified by the parish office.

The white baptism candle may be provided by the god parents (or sponsors), but one will be supplied by St Rita in the Desert.

The white garment that will be used can be provided by either the parents or the god parents / sponsors of the child.

The baptism party should plan on meeting the presider at the church 15 to 20 minutes prior to the time of the baptism to cover any last-minute adjustments, get set up or take care of any other items that need to be addressed.

You may live stream the baptism (if it is after Mass and not during Mass). You may have a photographer for the baptism as well. At no time during the ceremony will the videographer or photographer interfere with the solemness of the ceremony. Thank you for your cooperation in preparing your child for baptism.