

PARISH OF MOUNT CARMEL - ST BENEDICT



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Norms and guidelines

Our parish is always happy to welcome new members through the Sacrament of Baptism.

If the following norms present any difficulty, please do not hesitate to speak to one of our priests or pastoral staff.

BAPTISM OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized should know that they are always welcome.

Please speak to one of our priests or pastoral staff, who will be happy to assist you at any time of the year.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Normally the parents who seek the Baptism of their children in our church are members of our parish. Under some circumstances other children may be admitted to Baptism.

DATES FOR BAPTISM

Baptisms are normally celebrated in English on the first Sunday of the month, at 1:00 pm. But to be certain, check the parish bulletin or contact the parish office. *Please note that Baptisms do not normally take place during the seasons of Advent (before Christmas) and Lent (before Easter).*

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT

In preparation for the baptism of their child, parents and god-parents take part in a meeting which provides information and religious formation. This meeting usually takes place on the third Tuesday of the month, in the rectory at 7:30 pm. Please contact the parish office to make sure of place and time.

REGISTRATION

- Children must be registered for the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Only parents, or someone with parental authority, may register a child for Baptism.
- Children should be younger than seven years old. (*Children older than seven need to be enrolled in our parish religious education program in preparation for their Baptism.*)
- A registration form may be obtained by visiting or calling the parish office.
- A copy of the child's birth certificate must be presented as part of registration and preparation.

GODPARENTS

- Together with the parents, godparents (*or sponsors*) serve as guides in Christian living.
- Only one godparent is required. Most people choose to provide two: a godfather and a godmother.
- At least one sponsor is expected to be
 - a practicing Catholic,
 - 14 years or older,
 - who has received the three sacraments of initiation (*Baptism, Confirmation and Communion*), and
 - who is not prohibited from receiving Communion.
- If the Catholic godparent is married, it should be a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.
- If the second sponsor is not Catholic, he/ she must be a baptized Christian from another denomination. Non-Christians are not permitted to be sponsors for Baptism.

