

## PARISH OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION



### 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. Most candidates for the Sacrament of Baptism also prepare themselves to receive the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation. A process of faith formation, called RCIA (*for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) helps them in their growth. Please speak to one of our priests or pastoral staff, who will be happy to give assistance.

#### **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 ordinarily celebrated after one of the weekend Masses, but another time may be possible. For more information please 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**

At the time of registration, parents and godparents make arrangements for a meeting with a priest or member of the pastoral staff. During the meeting plans will be made for the formation and spiritual nourishment of the family, which will take place before the Baptism.

## 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.

