



GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.’ And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” ~ Matthew 28:18-20

CONGRATULATIONS! Your child’s Baptism is a time of great celebration for our entire parish. We rejoice with you and we thank God for the gift of your new child.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: “The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. ‘The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1212)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit...and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: ‘Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213)

ROLE OF PARENTS: Parents are the first teachers and examples of the Catholic faith and “are to care for the Christian education of their children according to the teaching handed on by the Church.” (Canon #226-2) In asking to have your child baptized, you take on the responsibility to raise your child in the Catholic Church. This includes attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, praying as a family and ensuring children have opportunities to learn and grow in the knowledge of their Catholic faith (examples: CCD, Catholic school, retreats, etc.) The Catholic parent(s) must be (a) practicing Catholic(s) to fulfill these responsibilities which provide “a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such a hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be put off (delayed)...” (Canon #868-1-2)



ROLE OF SPONSOR: The purpose of a sponsor/Godparent is to aid the person they sponsor in leading a Christian life in a manner that faithfully fulfills the obligations of the Catholic faith. To do this, they themselves must be living the Catholic faith. The requirements to be accepted into the role of a sponsor within the Catholic Church for Baptism are the same for those of Confirmation. To be a sponsor a person must:

- A person at least 16 years old;
- A Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation;
- A person who participates in the spiritual life of the Catholic Church by weekly attendance at Sunday Mass and regular reception of the sacraments;
- A person who will share, support and help deepen a Christian relationship with the one being baptized or confirmed as they grow and develop;
- A person living in harmony with the faith including one's state in life.

II. PREPARING FOR BAPTISM:

Watch *REBORN*: This program can be viewed online at **FORMED.org** (use parish code - **ADF556** code is case sensitive). *Reborn* presents the foundation of the Church's teaching on Baptism, with a step-by-step explanation of the rite itself, including its profound place in Scripture and Tradition. You will discover the real, life-changing effects of Baptism, the beauty of the Rite of Baptism, and your own baptismal calling to share in the mission of Christ to which all the baptized are called. The *Reborn* program is divided into three sessions:

- *A New Creation* traces the theme of Baptism through the Scriptures and demonstrates how Baptism is an essential part of God's plan for salvation.
- *Entering the Mystery: The Rite Explained* answers the question, "Why does the Church baptize infants?" and explores the prayers and symbolism of the Rite of Baptism.
- *Nurturing the Life of Grace* examines the call of the baptized to participate in Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet, and King and the responsibilities of the parents and Godparents in helping the baptized to answer that call.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Baptisms will be held on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Baptism arrangements may be made through the parish office after the parents have met with one of our parish priests. Special times may be arranged with the priest or deacon when there is a special need. It is important to be on time for the Baptism.



GROWING IN FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP FOR FAMILIES: In addition to Mass, our parish offers a wide variety of programs, activities and presentations throughout the year. We encourage you to join us as you continue on your faith journey.

SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATE

REQUIREMENTS OF A SACRAMENTAL SPONSOR FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

The purpose of a sponsor (Godparent) is to aid the person they sponsor in leading a Christian life in a manner that faithfully fulfills the obligations of Catholic faith. To do this, they themselves must be living the Catholic faith. The requirements to be accepted into the role of a sponsor within the Catholic Church for Baptism are the same for those of Confirmation. To be a sponsor a person must be:

- A person at least 16 years old;
- A Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation;
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- A person living in harmony with the faith including one's state in life.

Please arrange a meeting with the Pastor to discuss special circumstances.

CATHOLIC SPONSOR'S AGREEMENT

Having read and considered the above statements, I testify that they reflect my present situation.

Therefore, I _____,

(Name of Sponsor)

a parishioner of _____,

(Name of Parish of the Sponsor)

accept the privilege and responsibility of being a Sponsor for

(Name of Person to be Baptized or Confirmed)

Signature of Sponsor: _____

Signature of Pastor: _____ Date: _____



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