

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## CHILDREN

- *When should I have my child baptized?*

We encourage parents to baptize their child within the first few weeks after they're born. We do, however ask parents to attend a baptism preparation class before presenting their child for this sacrament. We want to ensure parents understand the sacrament and their roles in raising in their Catholic faith.

Even if your child was not baptized as an infant (or before the age of reason – about 7 years old), we would love to help you provide your child the graces God grants through the sacrament of Baptism.

- *What if my child is older than 7 years of age?*

No problem, we will work with you!! If the child is going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade, we can Baptize them with following through like we normally do.

If they are going into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, then we will have to propose a plan that works for everyone. A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade child must have a year of Religion before receiving First Communion. They can still receive their First Communion; we will just have to work a few things together to make it work.

## PARENTS

- *Do both parents have to be Catholic?*

No, the Church only requires that one parent be an actively practicing Catholic. The Catholic parent is required to “make a sincere promise to do all in his or her power so that all offspring are baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church.” The spouse of a different faith needs to be clearly information about his promise. Having both parents Catholic is the best approach, but we would love to have any child become Catholic by any means!

- *What if the parents of the child are not married? / What if we were not married in the Catholic Church?*

That won't impact your child's eligibility to be baptized. We do encourage you to pursue a sacramental marriage!!

If you were not married in the Catholic Church, we encourage you to pursue having your marriage convalidated in the Catholic Church.

Contact Father Carl at [langender@aol.com](mailto:langender@aol.com) or (812)-94-3013 ext. 1

## PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

- *Do I need to be a member of Holy Family?*

We highly encourage you to be a member of Holy Family Church, but it is not required. If you attend church with us, please consider being a member. We can fill out the form during our class.

- *What if I have already taken a Baptism preparation class?*

If you've taken a class @ St. Louis, please contact Michelle Waschmann at [mwaschsmann@st.louisschool.org](mailto:mwaschsmann@st.louisschool.org) or at (812)-934-3013 ext 251 & make sure either her or you send me proof that you took the class. If you have taken it once, we do not need to repeat the course.

- *How are baptisms scheduled? Where and when are they held?*

Please look at the "Requirements for a Baptism at Holy Family Church". They will be at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg, IN. We are doing individual classes now. Beth Geis will work with you & she can schedule an appointment on any Monday or Tuesday between 3:00 – 7:00 pm. If these times don't work, we can try to come up with another time. The class will be about an hour & we ask for kids to stay at home. We recommend parents & godparents to attend the class, but if not everyone can come, that is okay too. We highly encourage both parents to attend.

- *What if I want a visiting priest or deacon to perform the baptism?*

We can help arrange this. Please contact Beth Geis to set up the Baptism & time the baptism will be held. You can work with the priest on when he will come in, but please let Beth know when the scheduled baptism is.

## GODPARENTS

- *What if a godparent is unable to be at the baptism?*

Back to Canon Law, it requires that a Catholic adult be present at the baptism ceremony. You and the godparents can designate (in writing) someone to be a proxy for the absentee godparent. If you know beforehand, please notify us of the proxy's name! If it happens the day of the baptism, be sure to notify the priest – they have to note it on the documentation.

- *Can I change the godparents later?*

If the godparent(s) don't follow through in this spiritual relationship, you can definitely decide to engage other family or friends to support you and your child in this role. However, godparents listed in the official baptism register can never be changed since they were the historical witnesses to the baptism and entered into a permanent spiritual relationship with the baptized.

# *BAPTISM DAY*

- *What should my child wear for their baptism?*

A white garment is traditional, signifying the cleansing received in the waters of Baptism and the purity of the beginning a new life of Christ. You may wish to change your child into this garment once you've arrived for the baptism. Allow extra time for this!

- *What should parents & godparents wear for the baptism?*

Please wear your best Sunday outfit for your baptism. This is a celebration for your child & you are representing the child.

- *What do I need to bring to my child's baptism?*

Both parents, godparents & your child!! All paperwork should be completed before the day of the Baptism.

- *What time do we arrive?*

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Mass. Sit up front by the Baptism Font in the 2 pews on the side of it. Father will come down & greet you & your family when he sees you. Stay after for pictures & Father will give you a certificate & a gift.

- *May we take pictures during the baptism?*

Yes! You may also take pictures afterward. We just ask that photographers be respectful of the sacred space and reverent for the occasion.