

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## CHILDREN

- *When should we have our child baptized?*

We encourage parents to have their child baptized within the first few weeks after they're born, although any child under the age of seven is eligible for Baptism. We do ask parents to attend a Baptism preparation class before presenting their first child for the Sacrament. We want to ensure parents understand the sacrament and their roles in raising in their Catholic faith.

- *What if our child is older than 6 years?*

No problem, we will work with you! If your child is 7 years or older, let us know and we can discuss the process for being baptized.

- *Where should our child be baptized?*

Children are ordinarily baptized at the Catholic parish where the parents worship. If you do not worship at Holy Family Parish, you should first contact the parish where you do worship. If there are extraordinary circumstances that lead you to want to have your child baptized at Holy Family Parish anyway, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this.

## PARENTS

- *Do both parents have to be Catholic?*

No, the Church only requires that one parent be a baptized Catholic or was received into the Catholic Church as an adult. The Catholic parent is required, however, 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 informed about this promise.

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

Your child may still be baptized, as long as one of the parents is a baptized Catholic or was received into the Catholic Church as an adult.

## **GODPARENTS**

- *How do we choose a godparent?*

Please refer to the accompanying form on godparents and the handout explaining the role of godparents.

## **PREPARING FOR BAPTISM**

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

Once you have completed the accompanying forms for parents and godparents, we will schedule the Baptism as well as the Baptism class (if needed). Baptisms are ordinarily held at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg, although it is also possible to have your child baptized at St. Mary of the Rock Church. Baptisms are ordinarily celebrated at one of the parish's weekend Masses (Saturday evening or Sunday morning).

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

If you have already taken a Baptism preparation class at Holy Family Parish, please let us know. If you've taken a class at St. Louis Parish in Batesville, please contact Michelle Waschmann at [mwaschmann@st.louisschool.org](mailto:mwaschmann@st.louisschool.org) or at (812)-934-3013, ext. 251. Ask her to send us documentation that you took that class.

## **BAPTISM DAY**

- *What should my child wear for Baptism?*

Children being baptized wear white to signify the cleansing power of 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! Parents and godparents should wear whatever they would ordinarily for a special occasion or celebration.

- *What time should we arrive?*

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass. You will seats reserved in the pews next to the baptismal font. The priest greet you and quickly review the Rite of Baptism with you. He will also give you a certificate and other items after the Baptism.

- *May we take pictures during the Baptism?*

You may take pictures during the Baptism. You are also welcome to stay after Mass and take more pictures. The priest will request that you take a picture of him with the family.