

Holy Name of Mary Parish

Infant Baptism

*"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them.
It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God
belongs."*

Mark 10:14

Baptism is the beginning of the journey of faith for your child. Through Baptism, your child becomes part of our faith community in the Catholic church. Through your teaching example, your child will grow to become a follower of Christ and an active member of the church. This is why we have a special program to prepare parents and to help them raise their understanding concerning this important responsibility.

What is needed to have your infant baptized?

(Infant Baptism is for children ages birth to their seventh birthday.)

1. Active Catholic parent(s) :

2. Register for a Pre-Baptism Information Session:

Parents should come to the parish office and register for one of the up-coming Parent Pre-Baptism Information Sessions. There is a \$25.00 fee for these sessions. (There is also a \$25.00 fee for Sponsors who attend this session at Holy Name of Mary.)

3. Selecting Sponsor(s) (Godparent) :

Sponsors (godparents) play a very important role in your child's spiritual life. They should serve as role models of the faith. Your child should be able to look to their sponsor (godparent) as an example of how the church teaches us to live our Catholic faith. A sponsor should support not only the child but you in your role as parent. In addition to supporting you, a sponsor represents the larger Church community. Therefore, sponsors should be chosen carefully. If a potential sponsor is not a practicing Catholic they should not be considered for this role.

Specific requirements for sponsors are:

- A child must have one practicing Roman Catholic sponsor
- This Catholic sponsor must be at least 16 years old and have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- If married, the godparent must be married in the Church.
- A godparent must be actively practicing the faith.
- A non-Catholic, baptized Christian may be chosen as a *Christian witness*, as long as there is a Catholic sponsor.

4. Sponsor Form:

All sponsors must have a *Sponsor Form*/letter certified by their own parish/church stating that they are members in good standing and are eligible to act as a sponsor/godparent. These forms must be submitted to our Holy Name of Mary business office prior to setting a date for baptism.

5. Baptism Preparation Class:

All parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Preparation Session. To attend a class at Holy Name of Mary, you must pre-register in our parish office. Baptism Preparation Sessions at Holy Name of Mary are conducted monthly.

6. Scheduling the Baptism:

Once our office has received your child's Baptism Register Form, the Sponsor Form(s) and a copy of your child's birth certificate (hospital certificate is acceptable), you will be called by one of the deacons. He will arrange a meeting where you can ask questions, discuss your faith commitment and why you want your child baptized. At this meeting you should be able to set the date for your child's baptism.