



The Sacrament of Baptism, Ages Infant - Seven

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the parish community of Holy Trinity, we join in your happiness and joy in your decision to baptize your child. Baptism always brings hope of a life dedicated to the fullness of our faith. We pray that this new beginning, the gift of life, will be a time to thank God who is the giver of all good gifts.

As you prepare for the baptism of your child, please remember that success and true growth depends upon your personal involvement and participation in your child's faith journey. So, as we begin, let us do so with prayer asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

To enroll your child for baptism we ask that you fill out the attached baptism registration form and return the completed form to the Parish Office. Baptisms are held every 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month at 2:30pm. Parent and Godparent Preparation Sessions are mandatory and held every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm.

Please attach a **copy of the county recorded birth certificate (no hospital records) to your form**, and please be sure all information on your form is correct, as it will be used to prepare your child's Baptism Certificate and to create a legal document to be recorded in the Church Registry.

You will be contacted after your Baptism Registration Form has been reviewed by Baptism Coordinator, Maggy Gall, to schedule your Baptism.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (949) 218-3131 and leave a message for Maggy Gall.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael St. Paul

Pastor, Holy Trinity Church



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The Requirements for Godparents

In common usage, sponsors are typically referred to as Godparents, in Church Law however, they are called sponsors. In accordance with Canons 872, 874, 892 and 893, the Tradition of the Church requires that, together with parent(s), a sponsor or sponsors are present for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. The role of the sponsor is to assist the parent(s) in witnessing to the integrity of the Catholic faith and to support the child living that faith. For this reason, all of the following are required of sponsors.

- A minimum of **one Sponsor/Godparent** is **required** for baptism. The sponsor need not be the same sex as the child. When there are **two sponsors, one must be male** and the **other female**. Our Church has no provision for multiple sponsors beyond the maximum of two.
- The sponsor(s) must be an **active Catholic**, who **lives the faith**, participates in Mass faithfully every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, and is willing to share the faith with his/her godchild.
- Be at least sixteen years of age
- Have received **ALL** the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- If married, it must be a marriage recognized by the Church.
 - A person, who is bound by any canonical penalty, legitimately imposed or declared, may not serve as a sponsor.
 - A person who is (1) cohabiting or (2) civilly married and has neither been joined in sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church or obtained a dispensation to be married outside the Church from the Bishop, may not serve as a sponsor.
- Sponsor(s) and parents **MUST** attend a baptism class within 3 years prior to the baptism. This can be done at Holy Trinity or at another parish, (a letter of confirming attendance elsewhere will be required *before* the baptism).
- The sponsor(s) **cannot** be the mother or father of the child to be baptized.
- The use of proxies for sponsors is *discouraged*.
- **Non-Catholics may not act as sponsors**. However, together with qualified sponsors and a sufficient reason, a baptized, non-Catholic may act as a "**Christian Witness**" to the baptism.

Selecting sponsors is an important decision and it causes undue problems to propose someone as a sponsor who does not meet the Church's requirements. You are not simply honoring friends or relatives with a title whose responsibility ends at the conclusion of the celebration of the baptismal rite. You are asking them to enter a privileged faith relationship with your son or daughter. Sponsors do not replace parents, but support them in helping their child to grow in the Catholic faith. They are not only helpers during the Baptism itself, but throughout the child's life. Please consider this very carefully!



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The Lighted Candle

The lighted candle recalls the words of our Lord, "I am the light of the world." This is represented in the Easter candle, which stands beside the altar during the Easter season. After the Ascension it is brought to the baptistery where it is lighted for every baptism. From this Easter candle, then, is taken the light given to every child at their baptism. Christ said, through the Apostles, "You are the light of the world."

The **baptismal candle is a requirement during the ceremony.** Holy Trinity provides one (1) free candle for each child that is to be baptized. Usually, the Godfather is given the responsibility to light the candle during the ceremony. If you have more than one set of Godparents standing for your child, it is required that only one Godfather light the candle for the child; but if you wish to have all the Godfathers light a candle for the child, those additional candles must be provided by the family. If there is only a Godmother standing for the child, then the responsibility of lighting the candle will be passed to the Godmother.

The candle will become a beautiful remembrance for the child to carry through life. It is also an occasion for the parents to talk about baptism, making the whole history of them being a child of God and "the light of the world" even more meaningful.

The Baptism Garment

The baptismal garment represents clothing in a new life; the life of Christ, which one receives in Baptism.

Each family is required to provide their own white baptismal garment. This white garment is worn during the ceremony. It is important that the child wear a nice outfit that is easy to unbutton from the front of the outfit for the anointing on the breastbone with the Oil of the Catechumen.

Celebrant: (Child's name), you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: Amen



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Pre-Baptism Checklist

Register with the Church

- Register if you are not registered with Holy Trinity Catholic Church.
- If you attend another church, attach a copy of a letter of permission from home parish

Confirm chosen Godparents

- At least 16 years of age
- Received all their Sacraments (Baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation)
- Attend Mass Regularly
- If married, that their marriage is recognized by the church

Turn in application paperwork

- County Birth Certificate
- Baptism Registration Form
- Parent Information Form
- Godparent/Sponsor Form
- Schedule Baptism Preparation Session or proof of attendance within 3 years

Attend Baptism Preparation Session

- Baptism Preparation is mandatory for Parents and Godparents
- Baptism Preparation must be completed before your child is baptized
- If Parents or Godparents have already attended the Baptism Preparation Session within the last 3 years at Holy Trinity or elsewhere, then proof is needed from the church that they attended a Preparation Session.
- **Parents and Godparents must attend a Baptism Preparation Session. These Sessions are held every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm.**

Service Fees:

- If baptizing the child (or children) at Holy Trinity, there is a \$75.00 suggested donation for each child, which includes Baptism Preparation Session for all parents and Godparents. Please make all payments at the Parish office.



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Baptism Registration Form

Full Name of Child:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age _____

Place of birth _____
City State

Baptism Preparation is mandatory for Parents and Godparents. Preparation sessions are offered on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm.

Preferred Date of Preparation Session: _____

Baptisms are offered the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month at 3:00pm. We will try our best to accommodate your preferred dates. Dates are subject to: availability, completion of paperwork and Baptism Preparation. Please indicate your preferred date for Baptism.

Preferred Date of Baptism: _____



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Parent Information Form

Father:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic? Yes No

Have you received Holy Communion? Yes No

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No

Are you now attending Mass regularly? Yes No

Are you married? Yes No

Is it a marriage *recognized by the Church*? Yes No

Mother:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic? Yes No

Have you received Holy Communion? Yes No

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No

Are you now attending Mass regularly? Yes No

Are you married? Yes No

Is it a marriage *recognized by the Church*? Yes No

I do solemnly promise to accept the responsibility of training my child in the practice of the Catholic Faith by word and example of bringing him/her up to know God's love, of keeping God's commandments as Christ taught us, and of loving God and neighbor. I certify that the above information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Father's Signature Date

Mother's Signature Date



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Godparent/Sponsor information Form

Godfather:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic? Yes No

Have you received Holy Communion? Yes No

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No

Are you now attending Mass regularly? Yes No

Are you married? Yes No

Is it a marriage *recognized by the Church*? Yes No

Godmother:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic? Yes No

Have you received Holy Communion? Yes No

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No

Are you now attending Mass regularly? Yes No

Are you married? Yes No

Is it a marriage *recognized by the Church*? Yes No

I do solemnly promise to accept the responsibility of training my Godchild in the practice of the Catholic Faith by word and example of bringing him/her up to know God's love, of keeping God's commandments as Christ taught us, and of loving God and neighbor. I certify that the above information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Father's Signature Date

Mother's Signature Date