HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sacrament of Baptism

For Infants & Children up to 7 Years Old

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 on the 2nd Saturday of the month in Jan. Mar. Jul. Sept. and Nov. at 2:00pm.

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 by a Parish Receptionist after your Baptism Registration Form has been reviewed to schedule your Baptism. To assist in the process, please be sure to complete the Baptism Registration Form as thoroughly as possible and include all the documentation listed in the Pre-Baptism Check List outlined in this packet.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (949) 218-3131 or email at reception@holytrinity.org and leave a message

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!

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.

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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

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 From
- 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 on the 2nd Saturday of the month in Jan. Mar. Jul. Sept. and Nov. at 2:00pm.**

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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Child Information Form

Full Name of Child: _____ Date: _____
Last Name Middle

Date of Birth: _____ Age_____ Male [ ] Female [ ]

Place of birth _____ ***Please provide a copy of a Birth Certificate.***
City State

Parent Information

Father:_____
First Middle Last

Address:_____
Street City State and Zip:

Phone: ( )_____ E-mail: _____

	Are you a baptized Catholic?	Have you received Holy Communion?	Have you received Confirmation?	Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Married in Catholic church?
YES:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NO:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Mother:_____ Maiden Name_____
First Middle Last

Address:_____
Street City State and Zip:

Phone: ( )_____ E-mail: _____

	Are you a baptized Catholic?	Have you received Holy Communion?	Have you received Confirmation?	Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Married in Catholic church?
YES:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NO:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Baptism Preparation is mandatory for Parents and Godparents: These Sessions are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month in Jan. Mar. Jul. Sept. and Nov. at 2:00pm. Date of class: _____

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

Office Use Only

Certificate _____
Date of Baptism Requested:_____ Time:_____ Book _____
Celebrant: _____ Computer _____
Remarks: _____

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Godparent/Sponsor Information Form

Full Name of your Godchild: _____
Last First Middle

Godfather:_____
First Middle Last

Address:_____
Street City State and Zip:

Phone: ( )_____ E-mail: _____

	Are you a baptized Catholic?	Have you received Holy Communion?	Have you received Confirmation?	Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Married in Catholic church?
YES:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NO:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Godmother:_____
First Middle Last

Address:_____
Street City State and Zip:

Phone: ( )_____ E-mail: _____

	Are you a baptized Catholic?	Have you received Holy Communion?	Have you received Confirmation?	Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Married in Catholic church?
YES:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NO:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Baptism Preparation is mandatory for Parents and Godparents: These Sessions are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month in Jan. Mar. Jul. Sept. and Nov. at 2:00pm. Date of class:_____

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.

_____ _____
Godfather's Signature Date Godmother's Signature Date

On the day of the baptism is either Godparent represented by proxy? Yes ____ No____
Name of proxy: _____