

# Baptismal Preparation

For baptism of infants and children under the age of seven years old

## **Parents and Godparents who present the children for baptism.**

1. Parents and godparents have the right and obligation to be instructed in their responsibilities as well as prepared for the celebration of Baptism.
2. The ordinary place for baptism is in the parish church of the parents.
3. At least one parent or legal guardian must request that the child be baptized.
4. There must be a grounded hope that the child baptized will be raised in the Catholic faith.
5. In order to assure the parents have been participating in the life of the parish they will be asked to document their participation in at least 8 Masses prior to requesting a date for baptism. These forms will be provided at the front office, at their baptism class, or online below.
6. At least one Godparent must be a baptized Catholic in good standing with at least 16 years of age, who has received Baptism and Confirmation and regularly attends Mass. Godparents from the parish should take the baptismal preparation class – if possible with the parents of the child to be baptized. Godparents from outside the parish are asked to provide a letter stating that they have completed the requirements in their own parish and are in good standing (the sacrament of matrimony is expected if they are a couple.)
7. Sponsors will also need to show proof of a Baptismal preparation class.

## **Preparation of Parents and Godparents**

1. Parents and Godparents need to attend the Baptismal Preparation classes before their child is baptized. The purpose of the sessions is to:
  - Welcome families to their faith community
  - Educate parents and godparents about the history, meaning and symbolism of the Sacrament of baptism in the Catholic Church
  - Acquaint the parents and godparents with the rituals of the ceremony
  - Encourage parents and godparents to be actively involved in their faith community
  - Involve parents and godparents in a reflection on the presence of God in their lives
  - Educate godparents and parents in their responsibilities as role models to the child
  - Educate godparents on how they represent the parish.
2. Baptism Preparation sessions are normally held in the church. For English speaking sessions, parents call parish office at (503) 474-5232 to schedule a session.
3. Parents and godparents may attend the Baptismal preparation sessions at another Catholic church, however a letter of attendance and permission to have the baptism at St. James is needed before a baptism date is scheduled.
4. Upcoming baptismal classes are usually held the First Tuesday of each month. Additional or alternative times will be communicated in the bulletin or can be known by contacting Dominga in the front office.

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

1. Baptisms are typically held on the third Saturday of each month in the church with Lent and major feasts being the exception. Before planning a baptismal date, however, the date and time need to be confirmed.
2. Exceptions to the typical dates are for exceptional circumstances and only with approval by the Pastor. Exceptions may include such things as serious illness, military deployments, and emergencies. Exceptions will not be made for such things as accommodating the presence of Godparents or family members since stand ins can easily provide that role and subsequent months are available if needed.
3. Families are encouraged to have family and friends celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with their child. All should be present at least 20 minutes before the baptisms.

### **Baptismal Paperwork**

1. The presenter of the baptism class will provide you with the necessary forms to fill out. Please make sure they are filled out correctly and legibly and returned with the date you wish to reserve. If you later wish to change or add your child to a new baptismal date, please inform the parish office no later than one week prior to the new baptismal date so the certificates can be made ready for the date of your choosing.
2. At the completion of your class you will receive a certificate of completion with a parish seal on it. This must be presented to Dominga at the front office along with any other required forms.
3. Contact Fr. Mike for English Baptisms or Deacon Raúl for Hispanic Baptisms and confirm the date and time for baptism.
4. Godparents from other parishes will need a letter stating that they are practicing Catholics in good standing.