



SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH
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Dear Parent(s),

Thank you for your inquiry regarding Baptism at St. Joseph the Worker Parish. This letter provides you with our Baptism guidelines/policies. Baptism of your child is a special occasion. We will assist you as best we can in your preparation for this Sacrament. When you find you are ready to request baptism for your child/children, please complete the Infant Baptism Request Form and Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit and return them to the parish office.

“Baptism is the beginning of Christian Life and entrance into the Kingdom of God. It is above all the sacrament of faith by which all are enlightened with the Spirit’s grace. Further, baptism is the sacrament by which all are invited into the Church. This is a sacramental bond of unity which links all of us.” (Rite of Baptism)

Parent(s) are the models of faith, who because of their natural family relationship have an important ministry and pastoral role in the development of their child’s faith. The first step for parents is to belong to a Catholic faith community, the Church. Belonging to the Church means that one is a registered member of the parish in which one worships and is active in the practice of their faith.

Parents who request baptism for their child assume certain responsibilities. It is their duty to understand their faith and enable their child to come to know God and to help them live the Gospel of Jesus as they grow in their faith journey.

In accepting responsibility to the baptismal promise of raising their child/children in the faith of the Church, parent(s) are expected to be practicing their own faith. This includes: assuming their obligation of attending and participating in the Sunday (weekend) Liturgy/Mass, contributing to the life of the Church through a stewardship of Time, Talent or Treasure, knowing and living the Gospel values as taught by Jesus. This also assumes that one is in a valid marriage, such as, one is married in the Catholic Church or if married in another church it was with permission granted by the Catholic Church. If not, it is recommended that an appointment be scheduled with the pastor of St. Joseph the Worker to discuss the marriage situation. If parent(s) are new in the parish, there is a minimum waiting period of three (3) months prior to requesting baptism for their child/children, unless they are transferring from another parish and provide a letter from that parish’s pastor stating they were active members. The three-month period is to enable parent(s) to become acquainted with their new parish and the pastor.

When parent(s) feel at home in the parish and have gotten to know the pastor and some of the members and have sent in their baptism request form, they are expected to attend a preparation session for parent(s).

Baptisms can be celebrated any time after the attendance of the preparation session. Parents may choose the weekend liturgy of their choice, or they may choose to have their child baptized outside of Mass.

Generally, a child is baptized in the parish where the parent(s) belong, since that is their faith community. If for special reasons the baptism is to take place outside the parent(s) parish, a letter from their parish pastor approving baptism is needed.

In selecting a Godparent, parent(s) need only one, but may have two, one of each gender. The Church requires that one is a practicing Catholic, registered in the parish, is at least 16 years of age, has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, and if they are married, that their marriage is valid according to the Catholic Church. A baptized non-Catholic may not be a godparent, but may serve as a witness along with a Catholic godparent. Non-baptized persons may not serve as witnesses or godparents. If godparents are not from St. Joseph the Worker, the pastor of their parish will need to fill out the bottom section of the Godparent/Sponsor Affidavit stating that they are registered parishioners and practicing their faith is required before the Baptism is scheduled.

When children are of the appropriate age and not enrolled at St. Joseph the Worker School, parent(s) are expected to have them enrolled in one of the faith formation programs provided by the parish.

If you have questions or need further information, please call the parish office (989-644-2041).

God bless.