



BAPTISM PROCEDURES
PLEASE READ PRIOR TO REGISTRATION

For the baptism of an infant, it is necessary that there be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion. (canon 868 1.2)

FOR BAPTISM INFORMATION AND SCHEDULING CONTACT OUR PARISH OFFICE: (949) 951-8599

POLICY

- 1) Infant baptisms should be celebrated in the parish of the parents.
- 2) Infant baptisms are celebrated for children who are below ages 7 or 8 and have not yet begun third grade.
- 3) To begin the process, parent(s) and godparent(s) must attend the **Baptism Preparation Class** which is valid for two years. Only for **ADULTS** no childcare is provided.
- 4) Baptismal Class donation: \$25 per couple or per single person.
- 5) **Documentation needed:** Child's Certificate of Live Birth, Baptism Registration Form, and Godfather and/or Godmother Form (signed and sealed by their home Parish).
- 6) The Baptism Date will need to be scheduled upon request, after all the requirements are met.
- 7) Private Baptism: \$150 per child, Group Baptism: \$50 per child.

IF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET, THEN THE BAPTISM WILL BE DELAYED AND RESCHEDULED.

REGARDING THE PARENTS

- 1) The parent(s) must either:
 - be actively involved members of the parish prior to arranging the baptism of their child if they live outside the parish boundaries or
 - be non-parishioners who will receive permission from their parish pastor.
- 2) The parent(s) should be practicing Catholics who will be committed to raising the child in the Catholic faith.
- 3) If the parents are not validly married in the Catholic Church, they will indicate it on the registration form. Later, they will be contacted by a parish representative regarding their marital status and offered the opportunity for a validation. The primary motivation for the validation is that the parents may return to the sacraments.
- 4) The parent(s) must attend the required Baptismal Preparation Class. If they select to attend a class in another parish, a certificate of attendance must be sent to our Parish Office before the Baptism date can be scheduled.

REGARDING THE GODPARENTS

- 1) Only one Godparent is required, either one male or one female. If there are two Godparents, one must be male and the other female.
- 2) The Godparents must be at least sixteen years old.

Each Godparent must be a baptized Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith. (canon 874 1.3)

Note: A baptized person from a non-Catholic Christian faith community may be a 'Witness' to the baptism together with one Catholic Godparent, at the parent's request. (canon 874.2) A Witness is a non-Catholic Christian.

- 4) The Godparents must attend Sunday Mass regularly and be practicing Catholics.
- 5) If the Godparent is married, he/she must be validly married in the Roman Catholic Church (and not simply in a civil marriage or 'living together'). A marriage certificate from a Roman Catholic Church must be submitted to qualify. **Note:** *Marriages at American Catholic or Ecumenical Churches are **not valid** since they are not part of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- 6) Each Godparent must obtain a letter of good standing signed by their Pastor from their current parish. These forms must be received at the Santiago de Compostela Parish Office at least **one month** prior to the date of Baptism. If registered at Santiago de Compostela, they must be registered active members within the last 6 months.
- 7) The Godparents must attend the required Baptismal Preparation Class. If they select to attend a class in another parish, a certificate of attendance must be sent to our Parish Office before the Baptism date can be scheduled.

NOTE ABOUT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving Holy Communion when Baptisms are celebrated within Mass:

Only Catholics who are married in the Catholic Church may receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life and is an Apostolic Sacrament. Because the Catholic and Apostolic Church places such a value on the beauty and dignity of human love and the sanctity of the covenant of marriage, baptized Catholics are required to have their marriages witnessed and blessed by a priest or deacon of the Church. Because of the importance of both the Sacrament of Marriage and the regular reception of the Eucharist, as well as instructing their children in the faith by example, Catholics in 'invalid marriages' are strongly encouraged to have their marriages 'validated or blessed' in the Church. Please contact the parish priest and make an appointment. In summary, even though parents married outside the Catholic Church may have their children baptized within Mass, the parents themselves may not receive the Eucharist.

Godparents are encouraged to receive the Eucharist as they necessarily are married in the Church and fully initiated Catholic Christians.

1. Date of Baptism Preparation Class: _____

Time of the Class: _____

2. Date of Baptism: _____

Time of Baptism: _____