

# *Baptism*

A decorative flourish in a light blue color, featuring a central cross and symmetrical scrollwork on either side.

## INFANT BAPTISM AT HOLY APOSTLES

Rev. September 2018



# HOLY APOSTLES

CATHOLIC CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

*-Encountering Christ & Making Disciples-*

Welcome and congratulations on the arrival of your child! We are honored to work with you during this time and to help you welcome your child into the Catholic Faith. The Sacrament of Baptism allows your child to participate in the Trinitarian life, and carries very special and important responsibilities to you as a parent. We want to walk with you in this journey, and help you prepare to lead your child in the Faith.

Jesus commanded the Apostles to “go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19). Holy Apostles exists in order to help people encounter Christ and make disciples, and it is our prayer that through the baptism of your child, you will continue to encounter Christ more deeply and help your child become a disciple of Christ.

May God bless you!

## **What is Baptism?**

Baptism is the “basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1213). Through baptism, our sins are washed away and we receive the incredible gift of God’s life in our souls. Baptism is necessary for salvation, which is why it is important to baptize your child as soon as possible after birth.

## **What are my responsibilities as a parent?**

As a parent, God has entrusted you with the task of helping your child get to heaven, and you have the great privilege and responsibility of raising your child in the Catholic Faith. This means that you need to live out your Catholic Faith and be an example to your child by attending Sunday Mass every week, and receiving the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist at least once per year. It also means that God has entrusted you with teaching your child the truths of our Catholic Faith. We would encourage you to join the Family Faith Formation program here at Holy Apostles to help you and your child grow in the knowledge of the Faith and love for Our Lord.

## **What are godparents?**

According to Canon Law, a Godparent will “together with the parents, help the baptized to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.” The godparent should be able to play an active role in your child’s life as a role model, helping your child to grow into a faith-filled and practicing Catholic.

## **How should I select a godparent?**

Godparents should not be selected for honorary reasons. A godparent has a serious responsibility and special role to play, and you should select someone who is able to fulfill those obligations. You should not select a godparent simply to honor a relative or friend; there are other ways to do that. Rather, you should select a faithfully Catholic godparent who lives out their faith and can be a good example to your child. According to Canon Law, if you have two godparents, you may have one male and one female; or you may choose to just have one godparent.

## **What are the essential components for someone to be a godparent?**

According to Canon Law, godparents must

- Be over the age of 16
- Be a fully initiated Catholic (have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and be a practicing Catholic living according to Church teaching

- Not be the mother or father of the person being baptized
- If married, they must have been married in the Church or had their marriage regularized within the Church. If single, they need to be living according to Church teaching (not cohabiting or involved in a lifestyle contrary to Catholic morality).

## **How do I prepare for the baptism of my child?**

At Holy Apostles, there are three components to baptism prep:

### **1) Parent/godparent paperwork**

We have baptism packets available in the parish office which contain more information and all of the forms that need to be completed and returned to us.

### **2) Baptism Preparation Class**

We use the [CatholicBaptismPrep.com](http://CatholicBaptismPrep.com) online baptism preparation course. The cost for this course is \$50, and the class fee includes both the parents and godparents. Please allow several weeks to complete the class.

### **3) Meeting with a priest or deacon**

Once you have completed the baptism class, please call the office to schedule a time to meet with a priest or deacon.

## **When can I schedule the baptism?**

Baptisms should be scheduled as soon as possible after the birth of your child, and must be scheduled in advance with the parish office. The parish office must receive all the necessary paperwork and class completion certificates for **BOTH** parents and godparents before we can schedule the baptism. Please wait to receive confirmation from the parish office before making travel arrangements with family or the godparents. Baptisms are usually scheduled after one of the weekend Masses.

## **FAQ**

### ***My child is over 7 years old. What do I need to do for him to be baptized?***

Once a child has reached the age of reason (7), they must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation in order to be baptized. Please contact Peggy Armstrong at 719-484-8726 or [parmstrong@holypostlescc.org](mailto:parmstrong@holypostlescc.org) for more details if your child is over 7 and you would like him or her to be baptized.

### ***My spouse and I weren't married in the Church and cannot receive Communion. Can our child be baptized?***

The marital situation of the parents does not affect the child's baptism. However, you still have the obligation to raise your child as a Catholic, and your situation may make it more difficult for you to raise your child in the Faith. We encourage you to speak with one of our priests or deacons to discuss the possibility of convalidation for your marriage.

***Can my non-Catholic friend be a godparent?***

In order to be a godparent, your friend must be a practicing Catholic in good standing to provide a good Catholic example to your child and help your child grow in the Faith.

***The godparents weren't married in the Church. Can they still be godparents?***

Part of the responsibility of being a godparent is being able to be a living example of the Faith. If the godparents are not married in the Church or are otherwise not living according to Church teaching, they are unable to fulfill this role. If the people you have asked to be godparents are in this situation, we would encourage them to speak with their parish priest about the possibility of convalidation.

***I only have one person who can be a godparent. Is that a possibility?***

Absolutely! We will just need the godparent's paperwork and a copy of their baptismal class completion certificate.

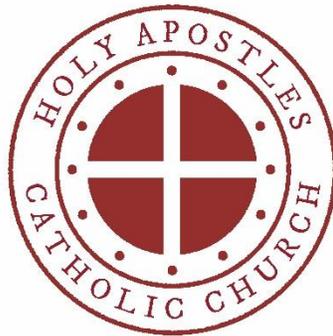
***I don't know anyone who is able to be a godparent. Can my child still be baptized?***

Yes! Please let the priest or deacon know when you meet with them, and they will be able to assist you.

***Are godparents the same as legal guardians?***

No. Godparents, together with the parents, help encourage the spiritual life of your child. They are not obliged to take custody of the child in the absence of the parents.

***If you have any questions or need more information about infant baptism, please contact Kathleen McCarty, parish secretary, at [kmccarty@holypostlescc.org](mailto:kmccarty@holypostlescc.org) or 719-484-8728.***



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