



God wants to celebrate your child's life.

Just as God gave your child the gift of life, God wants to give your child the gift of faith. As you were an instrument of God in giving your child human life, so too, by having your child baptized, you are an instrument through which God gives your child faith.

In baptism the gift of faith is like a seed planted in fertile soil. Your love, your teaching, and your example are the sun, the rain, and the nourishment that allow the seed to grow.

***“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. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”***

Matthew 28:19-20

**CLASS DATES:**

**Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**September 7 and 14, 2017**

**November 2 and 9, 2017**

**January 4 and 11, 2018**

Hartmann Hall St. Mary's Cathedral



## Godparents:

Godparents represent both the extended spiritual family in which the child is baptized and the role of the Church as mother. Godparents help the parents of the newly baptized child so that the child will profess the Christian faith and lead a Christian life. Godparents, therefore, need to be strong Christians who by word and deed exemplify a life based upon the Gospels.

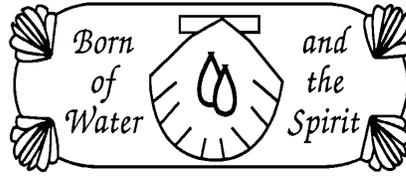
Godparents are persons, other than the parents of those to be baptized, whom the parents or the guardians of an infant or young child designate.

Those designated to be Godparents must have the capability and intention of carrying out the responsibility of a Godparent, and be free from any canonical impediments:

- Godparents must be Catholic and have received the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.
- If married, Godparents need to be in a sacramental marriage. (Catholics are bound by the laws of the Catholic Church. They are to be married in the Catholic Church in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses or with the written permission of the Bishop of the Catholic party and a dispensation from Canonical Form.)
- Godparents must be living a life consistent with the faith and with the responsibilities of a Godparent. They should attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day, regularly receive the Sacraments, and exemplify Christian faith, justice and charity.
- Godparents are to be suitably prepared for their role by participating in the baptismal preparation program of their parish.
- Godparents who are not members of the parish where the baptism is to be celebrated need a letter of permission from their pastor.

There may be one or two Godparents. There may be one Godfather, one Godmother or one of each. If there are two, one must be male and the other female.

*At the request of the parents, a baptized and believing Christian not belonging to the Catholic Church may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic Godparent for baptism.*



## **Celebration of Baptism**

As a rule, the baptism of infants and children is celebrated in the parish to which the parents belong.

Written permission must be obtained from the pastor to have a child baptized in another parish. If this is your desire, please contact both parishes to make the necessary arrangements.

### **Process**

As you are welcoming a child into your family please contact your parish to register for baptism and update parish records.

### **Session I**

The topics for the first class include: Sign, Symbol and Sacrament; Death and New Life. A brief overview of all seven sacraments will be given with emphasis on the first, namely, baptism. The evening ends with an explanation of the *Rite of Baptism*.

### **Session II**

The second session is designed to introduce you to the practice of raising your child Catholic. It will also afford you the opportunity to reflect on your own faith journey, to ask questions and voice any concerns you may have, and deepen your own spirituality. Resources will be available for your use.

**For further information contact:**

Eva  
634-4625

**Invitation of  
The Church of St. Joseph**

Congratulations! You have made a significant decision in choosing to have your child baptized in the faith of the Church. Your child enters a life of grace that will be fed and nourished through your active participation in the life of your parish family. We will support and encourage you in this wonderful responsibility of raising your child in the faith. Again, congratulations and may Christ's peace abide with you and your family.

**Reverend Carl Gallinger, Pastor**