

Godparents (Sponsors)

Godparents should be chosen by parents primarily to be good religious examples to their child. Godparents will be asked to assist the parents in teaching the child about the Christian faith and are required to provide an example of Christian life.

To be admitted to the role of Godparent, a person must be a practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation), receives Communion regularly, leads a life in harmony with the Faith and the role to be undertaken. They need to be registered with a parish and be at least 16 years of age. They also must attend a baptismal preparation class at either St. Joseph or their home parish. Proof will be required from their parish. If married, they must be validly married in the Catholic Faith. God

One Godparent must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic. A baptized non-Catholic, who is a practicing member of another Christian community, may serve as a second godparent and is referred to as a Christian witness.

Parent Requirements

It is important that parents call the Parish Office to register for Baptismal preparation as soon as possible because a date for the celebration of Baptism will not be set until the preparation process is complete. We encourage parents to begin this process prior to the birth of their child.

Parents must be registered and active in the parish for at least three months. Parents must also attend a Baptism class, unless they have attended one less than two years ago in this parish.

Symbols of Baptism

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS – signifies the grace of the redemption Christ won for us by His cross (CCC no. 1235).

OIL OF CATECHUMENS - Gives God's grace

BAPTISMAL WATER – symbolizes new life and fruitfulness, and at the same time death. Baptismal water cleanses us from sin and spiritual death and gives God's life into our souls (cf. CCC no. 1218, 1220).

SACRED CHRISM – perfumed oil consecrated by the bishop cleanses us from sin, signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian, that is, one "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ Who is anointed priest, prophet, and king (CCC no. 1241).

THE WHITE GARMENT – symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ," has risen with Christ (CCC no. 1243).

THE CANDLE – lit from the Easter (or Paschal) candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte (newly baptized person) who in Him is "the light of the world" (cf. CCC no. 1243).

*CCC – stands for the Catechism of the Catholic Church

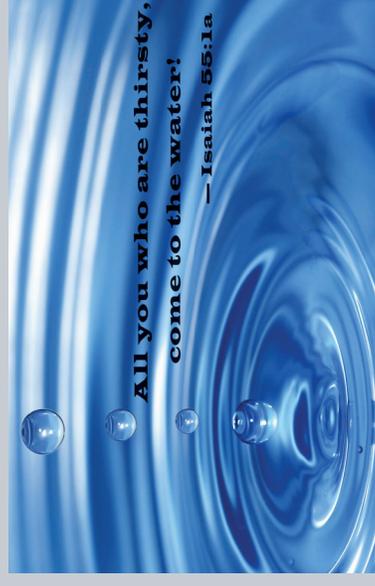
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1200 E. Tenth Street
Stuart, Florida 34996
772-287-2727
www.sjflorida.org

Mt 28:19 —
"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, . . ."



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH Infant Baptism



Congratulations!

We rejoice with you and your family as you plan for your child's Baptism. Your child is very fortunate that your deep concern for his/her spiritual life moves you to make these preparations for Baptism. The joy and hope that come with a relationship with God is the best gift you can offer your child.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the “door” which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are forgiven of sin (original and personal), born into new life as adoptive children of God, become members of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit, incorporated into the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. Baptism imprints on the soul indelible spiritual mark (character) of belonging to Christ, which no sin can erase (cf. CCC no.1213, 1279)*.

Baptism Celebrations

Infant Baptisms are usually celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. Requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for a child involves a serious obligation and faith commitment on the part of the parents and Godparents.

Your Child's Baptism Day

Please show up 15 minutes before Mass (or Baptism if outside Mass) and let the priest know that your family is present. If you do not do this before Mass, the priest will assume that you are a “no-show.” Some priests do the Rite of Anointing or parent blessing before the Mass begins and will want your family seated in the appropriate pews.

Make sure the collar of your child's garment is loose around the neck, so that the priest can anoint your child's collarbone/top of chest with the Oil of Catechumens.

An offering envelope will be provided to you at your baptismal preparation meeting, however whether to make a donation to the church is left to the family's discretion.

Order of the Baptismal Celebration

RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

The celebrant questions the parents:

Celebrant: What name have you given your child?

Parents: N.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents: Baptism

Celebrant: You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Celebrant: Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: We are.

Celebrant: N., the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name, I claim you for Christ our Savior by the sign of the cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

Scriptural Reading

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

These intercessory prayers are led by the celebrant with the appropriate response: **Lord, hear our prayer.** At the conclusion, the celebrant invites all to invoke the saints with the response: **Pray for us.**

ANOINTING OF OIL OF CATECHUMEN

At this time, the celebrant leads the prayer and then anoints the child on the collarbone/top of chest with the oil of catechumens.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal

Water—The celebrant blesses the water that will be used for the baptism.

Renunciation of Sin—The celebrant instructs the parents and godparents regarding their Christian duties and asks for their profession of faith.

In response to the celebrant's questioning, the parents and godparents respond: **I do.**

Baptism—The celebrant invites the parents and godparents to come forward with the child for the baptism. He asks them once again if it is their desire to have their child baptized and they respond: **It is.**

The celebrant baptizes the child.

Anointing with Chrism—The celebrant anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism.

Clothing with the White Garment—The celebrant presents the white garment to the child.

Lighting of the Candle—A lighted candle is given to the family representing the light of Christ.

Prayer Over Ears and Mouth—The celebrant prays that the newly baptized child may hear the Word of God and make it known to others.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

The celebrant invites all present to join together for the **Our Father.**

BLESSING

The celebrant first blesses the mother, then the father, and lastly the entire assembly.