



# Holy Family Catholic Church

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Baptism, the gateway to the Sacraments and necessary for salvation by actual reception or at least by desire, is validly conferred only by a washing of true water with the proper form of words. Through baptism: men and women are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, are configured to Christ by an indelible character, and are incorporated into the Church. (Canon 849)*

### GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to a child under seven (7) years old, under ordinary conditions. For children older than seven (7) years old, please call to make an appointment with the pastor. In the danger of death or grave illness, please call the pastor for immediate emergency Baptism. Every person not yet baptized, and only such a person, is capable of Baptism. Therefore, Baptism can only be received once in a person's life.

### Baptism Celebrations:

Parents "are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks" following birth, i.e., as soon as reasonably possible (Canon #867). Parents may prepare for the impending Baptism even prior to the birth of their child by scheduling the date and attending the Baptism Preparation Class (see below).

The Sacrament of Baptism is typically after a weekend Mass (10:30am on the first Sunday of the month). Other times throughout the week or weekend may be possible by special arrangement. Parents must contact the parish office to schedule the Baptism at least *two weeks* before the Baptism date.

### Baptism Preparation:

Parents are required to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism and to attend a Baptism Preparation Session prior to the Baptism of their *first* child. The video series is free at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and is called *Reborn*. There are five videos which will help explain the wonders of God's Grace and the power of Baptism. These are then followed by an in person discussion with the DRE or pastor. Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment.

### Baptism Requirements:

At least one of the parents (or guardians) of the child must be an active member in Holy Family Catholic Parish. Active membership includes, but is not limited to, being registered in the parish, weekly and Holy Days attendance at Mass, and financial and volunteer support of the parish according to one's means. While the criteria for Godparents do not explicitly apply to the parents of the child, they do provide a basic guide for active membership. For a child to be baptized, the parents or guardian must provide: (1) consent for the baptism and (2) sufficient evidence and hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion so as to live and practice the faith (Canon 868).



# Holy Family Catholic Church

## **Requirements for Godparents (i.e., Sponsors)**

The choice of a sponsor for your child is an important one. It should be governed the Godparent's ability to provide the child a prayerful and faithful witness and assistance in living one's Catholic Christian faith. All Godparents must meet all the following criteria.

- 1) He/she is a baptized Catholic Christian having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- 2) He/she is 16 years of age or over.
- 3) If single, he/she is living a chaste life, that is, not "living together" with someone.
- 4) If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church by an approved Catholic priest.
- 5) He/she attends Holy Mass every weekend and on Holy Days.

Only one Godparent or sponsor is required. A child may have up to two Godparents – one female and one male. They need not be related or married. Also permitted is the participation of one Catholic Godparent and one Christian Witness (a baptized non-Catholic Christian). A baptized Catholic Christian, who now practices in a non-Catholic Christian church, is not permitted to be a Godparent or sponsor, since their actions serve as a tacit renunciation of fullness of the Catholic Christian Faith.

If a chosen Godparent cannot be present at the Baptism (e.g., serves in the military and is currently deployed, lives in a different state or country, etc), the Godparent can be represented by a proxy. The proxy must meet the same criteria above for a Godparent. Please notify the parish of this situation.

It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian to verify that the selected Godparent(s) meet the above criteria. Selected Godparent(s), who are not members of Holy Family Catholic Parish – New Albany, IN, are required to have a *Godparent Verification Form* sent to Holy Family from the Godparent's home parish stating that they meet the above criteria.

Parents or guardians of the child to be Baptized are not permitted to be Godparents of the same child, since they already have a unique and special relationship and role as the 'primary educator in the faith.'

In Christ,

Rev. Jeremy M. Gries  
Pastor



# Holy Family Catholic Church

## GODPARENT VERIFICATION FORM

Dear Father,

We are requesting verification for your parishioner, \_\_\_\_\_, who is to become a Godparent in a Catholic Baptism at Holy Family Parish, New Albany, IN. This is a form that completes the Catholic Church’s requirements for Baptism regarding the Godparents. This letter must be sent to Holy Family prior to the date of baptism, \_\_\_\_\_.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GODPARENTS:

- 1) He/she is a baptized Catholic Christian having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- 2) He/she is 16 years of age or over.
- 3) If single, he/she is living a chaste life, that is, not “living together” with someone.
- 4) If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church by an approved Catholic priest/deacon.
- 5) He/she attends Holy Mass every weekend and on Holy Days.

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### TESTIMONIAL FOR GODPARENT

I hereby testify that \_\_\_\_\_ does indeed meet all of the above requirements.

Child to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pastor Name (Printed)

Pastor Signature

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish name, address, City, State & Zip

[Please return to Holy Family Catholic Parish]