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Thank you for requesting to have your child baptized.

Christ the King Parish rejoices with you as you happily prepare for and celebrate this first sacrament of Initiation. This letter outlines our Parish's approach to the baptism of infants.

Question: What do you ask of God's Church for your Child?

Answer: The first question of the Baptism ceremony is address to the parents and reflects the fact that infant baptism is a decision of the parents. This decision arises out of serious reflection about your commitment to the Christian life. Why? Because is not an isolated event; it is your expression of your faith and the commitment on your part to raise your child in the family of the Roman Catholic Church. The focus is as much on you as it is on the child.

The Baptism of your child is also an event of the Church. As the above question indicates, you are requesting Baptism from "God's Church." "Church" in this sense refers not just to the priests, but also to the entire Christian community, manifested locally in the parish of Christ the King.

Question: What is the Catholic understanding of a Sponsor (i.e., "godparent")?

Answer: The Church views the "Sponsor" at a baptism as the one whose willing to share his/her faith with the one to be baptized, assisting in the for the spiritual growth and development of the child in the Catholic faith.

Question: What are the minimal requirements to be a Sponsor?

Answer: Church policy states that Sponsors must:

- be at least 16 years of age
- have received First Communion and Confirmation
- if married have been married in the Catholic Church
- be practicing the Catholic faith:
 - be formally registered in a parish
 - actively participate in the support of that parish
 - attend Mass weekly
- Obtain a sponsor certificate from their parish (Christ the King parishioners can be verified by the parish office)

The Sponsor takes on the Responsibility to be a role model and teacher to the child in the practice of the Catholic faith. **Non-practicing Catholic are not in a position to fulfill this role, and thus sadly disqualify themselves from serving as Sponsors.**

FYI: Canon law requires only one godparent; two are customary. If you choose two, one must be male and the other must be female. Please understand that the Church does not permit more than two sponsors to serve at Baptism.

Where the decision is made to have only one Catholic godparent (of either sex), a second person, of the opposite sex, may be designated as a “Christian Witness.” A “Christian witness” is a person who has been baptized into a Christian denomination (protestant, Orthodox, etc.) but is not and has never been Catholic

Question: What is necessary before a date for the Baptism can be set?

Answer: When you call the parish office, your requested date will be noted on the Baptismal schedule. However, before you can be assured of that date, you must first provide the Parish Office with the following:

Completed baptismal registration form (yellow form enclosed) must be returned to the parish office at least one month prior to the baptism.

A letter from the pastor of each godparent testifying to their qualification to serve as a sponsor for Baptism.

Attend a baptism preparation class. This class discusses the sacrament of Baptism as well as living a faithful life as a family **Parents must attend** Godparents are strongly encourage to attend.

Question: Is there a fee for Baptism?

Answer: As Baptism is a sacrament, no fee is ever charged. Many couples, however, wish to make the customary donation to the church. A voluntary donation is greatly appreciated. Give what you feel comfortable.