



# *Saint Gregory Barbarigo Catholic Church*

*1005 Williams Ave*

*Phone: (985) 876-2047*

*Houma, Louisiana 70364*

*Fax (985) 876-0628*

## ***Baptism Information***

Parents who are seeking Baptism for their children are asking that their son/daughter be initiated into the Catholic Community and the local Church community of Saint Gregory. The Church baptizes infants/children on the faith of the parents. The ideal is that parents have a deep faith, which they actively live out in the experience of the Catholic Church Community.

Children's faith is learned from their parents. To assist parents in living out the above ideal, the Church community of Saint Gregory has adopted the following guidelines for infant Baptisms. (We consider children from birth through the age of seven to be infants.)

Baptisms are normally held after the 10:30 a.m. mass in the Church. To assist parents in preparing for the Baptism of their child, Saint Gregory offers a Baptism Seminar. We ask that parents and sponsors attend this seminar or provide a written statement from the Catholic Church where the classes were taken and have an interview with the pastor or deacon.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO PARENTS**

1. Provide the child's birth certificate if you have one; a copy will be made in the Church Office and the original will be returned to you.
2. If the parents are not married, they must provide proof of paternity for the father's name to be on the certificate and in the record. The church requires a copy of the legal documents provided by the hospital.
3. If you attend mass at another parish or live within the boundaries of another parish, a letter of permission must be provided from that parish to have your child baptized at Saint Gregory.

### **BAPTISM SEMINAR:**

1. Baptism seminars are held at the Administration Office at the convenience of the parents. Baptism seminars are scheduled only after all the required paperwork has been returned to the Church Office.
2. Both of the parents and the sponsor or sponsors are required to attend the seminar. If the seminar is attended at another parish, a letter stating that a seminar was completed is requested.

**It is important that all the documents be provided and the seminar be completed prior to the Baptism. Your child's Baptism will be postponed if everything is not completed.**

## **PARENTS**

1. Please forward the enclosed reference form to the sponsor or sponsors and ask them to have their parish priest sign it.
2. Ask the sponsors to call their church of Baptism and ask for a “Recent Copy” of their Baptismal Record. This record will include notations of the date of Confirmation and any Church Marriage. The Church of Baptism may fax or mail it to Saint Gregory.
3. After all required paperwork is returned to the Saint Gregory Church Office, the Deacon will be informed and he will contact the parents to schedule a seminar and then the baptism will be scheduled.

**A baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted as a witness to Baptism, but only along with a Catholic sponsor (Canon 874, 2), provided that the sponsor meets the required qualifications. No baptized, non-Confirmed Catholic, nor a Catholic whose marriage is not recognized by the Catholic Church, nor a Catholic who is not faithfully practicing the faith may serve as a sponsor.**

**It is advisable that parents consider these requirements before choosing sponsors so to avoid possible embarrassment.**

## **QUALIFICATION FOR GODPARENTS**

In infant Baptism, the sponsor, together with the parents, presents the child for Baptism and helps the baptized to lead the Christian life expected by Baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent to it (Canon 872). Only one male or one female sponsor, or one of each sex is to be employed (Canon 873).

The qualifications of sponsors for the Catholic Baptism of an infant must be as follows:

1. The sponsors are to be chosen by the parents or the person who takes their place. When this is not possible, the pastor or other minister should choose the sponsor or sponsors.
2. The sponsors must have the qualifications for and intention of carrying out this duty.
3. They are to be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
4. They must be Catholics who are already Confirmed and have received the Holy Eucharist. **(Catholics who have not Confirmed and received the Holy Eucharist are not eligible to be sponsors and cannot stand as a witness to the Baptism).**
5. They should be leading a life of faith in harmony with the duty they are undertaking **(for example: cannot be co-habiting or living with someone outside of marriage, not faithfully attending Mass).**
6. They may not be under a lawfully imposed or declared canonical penalty **(for example: not married by a Catholic priest or deacon, or living in a second marriage not recognized by the Church).**
7. They may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.