

The Sacrament of **Baptism**

St. Mary Catholic Church
Hudson, Ohio 330.653.8118



Your baby's baptism is a time for celebration and great joy! And, naturally, you want the best for your baby. We want to help you plan and prepare for the baptism in the best possible way. Baptism is the first Sacrament a person receives in the Church and is a sacred moment in which the child is given the gift of Salvation and eternally marked as a Child of God. As a large and vibrant Church, we have quite a few Baptisms. In an effort to help facilitate the Baptism at St. Mary Church the following guidelines should be kept in mind.

Baptisms take place only on the **second, third and fourth** Sundays of the month after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Please call as far in advance as possible to schedule a Baptism as we generally only have four Baptisms at each scheduled time and they fill up quickly! It may be a few months before you can get a scheduled time. You may schedule the Baptism prior to the birth of the baby. Exceptions to our scheduling policy are arranged directly with our parish priests or deacon. **We emphasize the need to plan ahead.**

PARENTS should be registered members of the parish or another Catholic parish. Parents registered at another Catholic parish need to obtain a letter of permission from that parish in order for the Baptism to take place here.

PRE - BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS:

Parents are asked to attend the baptism preparation classes held here in the parish for their first child. It is strongly encouraged to attend this class again if it is more than five years between children. If you are unable to make the St. Mary preparation class, the staff in the Parish Office can help you find one at a neighboring parish.

SPONSOR (Godparent) REQUIREMENTS:

You only need one sponsor. It is common to have two sponsors. This is perfectly acceptable; however, if you have two sponsors, it needs to be a male and female.

The sponsor(s) is expected:

- ✚ to be registered, participating Catholic at a Catholic parish;
- ✚ need to have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- ✚ need to be at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- ✚ be regular in their Sunday Mass attendance and give witness to their faith in Christ Jesus by receiving Him in the Eucharist;
- ✚ if married, they need to be validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church;
- ✚ and they need to make a serious effort to incorporate the teaching of the Scriptures and Church Tradition in their daily lives.

SPONSOR DOCUMENTATION:

If the sponsor is not a member of St. Mary Church, each sponsor must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from the Church in which the sponsor is registered.

- ✚ If the sponsors are a married couple a separate certificate is required for each of them.
- ✚ These certificates should be sent to St. Mary Church Office prior to the baptism.
- ✚ If the sponsor cannot actually be present at the baptism, he/she can be represented by a proxy; however, the sponsor still needs to provide a Sponsor Certificate to St. Mary Church.

*If you would like, one of the Sponsors, may be a baptized Christian, who is a member in good standing in a Christian Church other than a Catholic Church. They would be known as a *Christian Witness*. Please note that this does not include and will not be extended to former Catholics who have joined other Christian Churches or to Catholics who are no longer practicing members of the Catholic Church.

STOLE FEE: The customary fee for a baptism is \$25.00 and is to be paid before the day of baptism.