

## **BAPTISM AT ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE (FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN)**

Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of initiation into the body of Christ, the Catholic Church. The other two are the sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. In the waters of Baptism, the soul is washed clean of Original Sin, and we are given a share in the life of God through sanctifying grace. Additionally, we become brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ in the family of God and we are made members of the Catholic Church with all rights, privileges and duties. It is to realize these effects of the sacrament of Baptism that the following requirements are made by the Church for those who wish to have their child baptized at St. John Nepomucene.

### **THE PROPER PLACE FOR BAPTISM**

1. The proper place for Baptism of a child is the parish of the parents. Parents desiring to have their child baptized must be parishioners of St. John Nepomucene. A person is considered a parishioner of St. John Parish if he/she is registered, active, and financially supporting the parish. At least one parent needs to be a parishioner for at least three months.
2. Parents who desire to have their child baptized at St. John Nepomucene, but do not live in the parish or are not registered in the parish, must present a letter from the pastor of their proper parish which says that they have permission to have their child baptized elsewhere. This letter must also state that the parents have received Baptismal instructions and that they intend to raise the child as a Catholic.

**Note:** “Raising the child Catholic,” means that parents intend to teach the Catholic faith to their children and see to it that these children are led through the other sacraments of initiation. Additionally, the parents will train their children to practice their faith, especially by participating at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

### **THE PROPER TIME FOR BAPTISM**

1. In Baptism we die with Christ and rise with Him to new life. Sunday, the day of the resurrection, is therefore the normal day for Baptism.
2. At St. John Nepomucene, the following schedule is observed:  
English Baptism: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 2:30 P.M.  
Spanish Baptism: 2<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 11:00 A.M.

Allowances may be made for Baptism at times other than these after consultation with the parish staff.

### **ELIGIBLE PERSONS FOR BAPTISM**

1. Any child of a Catholic family, with at least one parent being Catholic, is eligible for Baptism.
2. The parents must give an indication that they intend to raise the child Catholic. This normally means that:

- a. The parents themselves practice their faith by participating at Mass and receiving the sacraments.
  - b. The parents are married in the Catholic Church if possible, or are in the process of getting their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church.
3. Parents and godparents of children to be baptized must attend the required Baptismal Preparation Class. The English class is generally held on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 103. (Check with the parish office for specific dates in upcoming months.) The Spanish class is held on the third Saturday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the Room 101-102. Applications must be filled out and necessary documentation provided before attending the class.
4. Godparents are spiritual parents of the child to be baptized. They assure that the children will be raised Catholic. They do this by their own example of practicing their Catholic faith, or in the absence of parents, by actually raising the child Catholic. For this reason, the following requirements exist for the godparents:
  - a. The godparent must be a practicing Catholic. "Practicing Catholic," means that the godparent must be fully initiated into the church (Baptism, Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation.) It also means that that the godparent participates at Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
  - b. The godparents must be at least 16 years of age and if married, have been married in the Catholic Church. The godparents must not be cohabiting with anyone if they are not married.
  - c. At least one godparent is necessary, two are normal. They may not be parents of the child to be baptized and cannot be of the same gender. If two godparents are used, one must be male and one female.
  - d. A Christian witness is a baptized non-Catholic who may act as a sponsor as long as the godparent is Catholic.
  - e. A current Baptismal Certificate (with notations) of the godparents and/or Christian witness needs to be presented with the application.
  - f. A Godparent Registration Form must be filled out by the prospective godparents and signed by their proper pastor.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. There is no monetary cost to receive the sacrament of Baptism. Members of the parish staff conduct the preparation class and a candle is provided by the Altar Society. However, there is an administrative cost. A fee of \$15 will be assessed at the time of application.
2. If you wish to make a donation to the minister of the Baptism, please do it before the day of Baptism. It will be given to him. At the time of Baptism, there should not be an exchange of money.
3. A saint or Christian name should be given to the child to be baptized. Then, the child will have a patron and model to imitate in following Christ.