



## **BAPTISM**

Holy Baptism is the basis of whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and the Word.

**We share your joy and happiness in the birth of your child. You and your family have welcomed this child into the world. Now you desire that he or she be welcomed into our spiritual family.** During the Baptismal Rite, you will hear the following words spoken to you and the Godparents you have chosen for your child: "In asking to have your child baptized, you are accepting the responsibility to train him or her in the practice of the faith."

The Christian life is one of continued growth, spiritually and intellectually. The occasion of the baptism of a child is very special opportunity to look again at our own faith commitment. It is a special time for parents to grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord and His Gospel. **For older children's Baptism (children aged 6 and up), please contact the Religious Education Department (972) 778-0368.**

### **The Two Great Principles:**

- 1.) Baptism, which is necessary for salvation, is a sign and the means of God's prevenient love. Baptism frees us from original sin and communicates to us a share in divine life. The gift of these blessings to infants must not be delayed.
- 2.) In order to fulfill the true meaning of the Sacrament, there must be a well-founded hope and assurance that he or she will be brought up Catholic by an authentic education in the faith and Christian life. If that hope is absent, then Baptism will be postponed so that the parents can receive formation in the faith, an opportunity to grow in their commitment to Christ and His Church. That growth expresses itself in regular Mass attendance and involvement in the life of the parish community. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Instruction on Infant Baptism, n. 28*)

### **Godparents at Baptism:**

- 1.) The Godparents, together with the parents are present to profess the Church's faith in which the child is being baptized. Therefore, in order to be appointed as Godparent, the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.
- 2.) In order to carry out the role of the Godparent, the person must (*Code of Canon Law 874.1*):

- a) be appointed by the parents or whoever stands in their place
- b) be mature enough to undertake this responsibility and be at least 16 years old
- c) be a Catholic who has received the 3 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist); and lives a life of faith in harmony with the duty they are undertaking. They are attending Sunday Mass on a regular basis and a registered member of a Catholic Church for 6 months.
- d) not be bound by any canonical penalty (an example: if the Godparent is married, he/she must be in a valid Catholic marriage.
- e) may not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.

3.) A Christian of another communion (baptized, non-Catholic) may serve with a Catholic Godparent, but only as a Christian Witness (not as a Godparent). In these cases, the responsibility for the Christian education of the child belongs to the Godparent who is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. (Verification must be obtained from the Godparent's home parish if not registered member of All Saints.)

4.) If Godparents are unable to attend, they may be represented by proxies.

#### **Names:**

The Catholic tradition is to name a child after a Saint. Care should be taken that the candidate for Baptism receives a name having Christian significance.

#### **The Garments:**

The proper color of clothing for Baptism is WHITE, a symbol of being clothed in Christ. The candidate for Baptism should arrive at the church dressed in ordinary clothes. At the appropriate time following the Baptism in the font, the child will be dressed in his/her white baptismal garments which signifies the newness of life the child now shares with Christ.

#### **The Candle:**

The candle presented at Baptism can become a beautiful remembrance for the person to carry through life. It can be an occasion for parents to tell a child about his/her baptism and can be lit at home during the celebration of special event, First Communion or at Easter time. Baptismal symbols or the child's name can be used to decorate the candle used in the baptismal liturgy. You are encouraged to decorate a white candle to be used in the Liturgy of Baptism.

The following forms are required at least **2 weeks** before the Baptism:

**PARENTS:**

- Baptismal Registration Form Standing
- Baptism Preparation Class Certificate Class Certificate
- Child's Birth Certificate Form

**GODPARENTS:**

- Certificate of Good
- Baptism Preparation
- Baptismal Registration

**Baptism Preparation Class**

Parents and Godparents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. You may attend it before the birth of your child. The class is offered on the second Sunday of every other month, 1-4:00pm in the St Theresa Room. For class registration and more details, please contact the Religious Education Department at 972-778-0368. Unless noted otherwise, classes are held in the St. Theresa Room (Kamel Life Center), starting at 1:00 p.m. please check the website for dates of upcoming classes. [www.allsaintsdallas.org](http://www.allsaintsdallas.org)

**BAPTISM CLASS FEES:**

There is a required Baptism Preparation Class registration fee in this parish of \$20 per person attending the Baptism Preparation Class. This fee will cover expenses of utilities for the classroom and church, forms and certificates, clerical work, use of the classroom and church and equipment.

A 'Certificate of Baptismal Preparation' will be issued after the completion of the three hour class.

A 'Certificate of Baptism' will be issued at the time of the Baptism.

**When is Baptism Celebrated at All Saints Church?**

All Saints celebrates Baptisms\*\* once a week on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. at the Baptismal Font. \*\* If required paperwork is not complete before the baptism date, the CHILD MAY NOT BE BAPTIZED on that day.

Please call Religious Education Department to schedule a baptism at least two – three months in advance of the desired baptism date. For additional details, please contact the Pastoral Office, at (972) 661-9282. If parents and /or godparents have not been registered in a parish for at least six months, please contact the Religious Education Department.