

# St. Joseph Church

6220 E. Willow St.

Long Beach, CA 90815

(562) 594-4657

## Infant Baptism

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Catholic Church, a welcoming of your child into the Christian family. From the baptismal font is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." (1 Corinthians 12:13) Through Baptism we receive the grace of God and become sharers in the Church's mission. It is the first of three sacraments of initiation and is the basis of the whole Christian life.

This information sheet deals **ONLY** with the baptism of **children under six years of age**. Because they are capable of learning about their faith, older children who have already had their sixth birthday or begun first grade must take **religious instruction** before being baptized. Please call the Religious Education Office (562-598-0519) for information about these special classes.

The Baptism of your infant child is an expression of your desire to share your faith with your child. Faith is a gift from God, a gift that needs to be nourished. We do this through prayer, Scripture reading, attendance at Mass on Sundays, reception of the Eucharist, and being of service to other people. In the sacrament of Baptism your child is being initiated into the Catholic Church because you, as parents, are promising God and the Church to raise your child in the practice of the Catholic faith. You are taking on a great responsibility of being the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. May your example of day-to-day living of the Catholic faith make you the very best of teachers.

Here at St. Joseph, baptism takes place the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, at 2pm. Exception: Lent and Christmas.

## Godparents

The selection of the child's godparents is an important decision and should be made with the child's growth in faith in mind. You may choose **one** Godfather and/or **one** Godmother. Godparents accept the responsibility, along with you, of providing for the faith formation of your child in the Catholic Church. Their beliefs and life style should reflect the responsibility they are accepting. Consequently, the Church **requires** the following of the Godfather and Godmother:

1. They are **practicing Catholics**, i.e., they attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly.
2. They are at least **sixteen years of age**.
3. They have received the sacrament of **Confirmation**.
4. If married, they are **married in the Catholic Church**.

After considering these qualities the parents should select the godparents for their child. A non-Catholic Christian may take the place of **one** of the godparents and stand as a Christian witness along with the Catholic godparent. Godparents can provide a recommendation from their pastor by using the form available on the web site.

1. Call the parish (562-594-4657) for an appointment.
2. Fill out the registration form completely just before the meeting and present it to the baptism coordinator.
3. If you live in this parish and are not registered, please fill out a parish registration form for your family.
4. The coordinator will schedule you for the pre-baptismal class.
- 5.

### I. Prebaptismal Class

Both parents must attend the pre-baptismal class. The purpose of this class is to gain a fuller appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith. This class takes place on Monday in the evening.

### III. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

Upon completion of the pre-baptismal class and receipt of the godparents' forms, a date for the celebration will be confirmed. Baptisms ordinarily take place on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2pm.

-End -

# Baptism Registration

**PARENTS:** Please fill all the information below prior to your interview with the priest. Write the names exactly as you wish them to appear on the baptismal certificate. Circle your choice where indicated. Once the form is filled out, both parents are to sign their names on the reverse side.

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please print: Last First Middle

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ City and state of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Was child adopted? Yes No Was child previously baptized? Yes No

Parents' address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Apt # City Zip

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Work or cell? Father or mother?

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last First

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

If baptized Catholic - First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Do you attend Mass: Weekly Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No Somewhat

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ where? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last First

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

If baptized Catholic - First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Do you attend Mass: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you receive communion: Weekly? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?

Do you consider yourself a practicing Catholic? Yes No Somewhat

Have you previously attended a pre-baptismal program? Yes No

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ where? \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status of parents: Married Single Divorced

If married, please circle whether:

Married in the Catholic Church Married in other church or chapel Married by Court

Are you registered in St. Joseph Parish? Yes No ID number: \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like  
 to be registered? Yes No

Godfather \_\_\_\_\_ Over 16 yrs. of age? Yes No  
 Baptized Catholic? Yes No Attends Mass weekly? Yes No Confirmed? Yes No  
 Is he married? Yes No If married, was marriage witnessed by Catholic priest? Yes No  
 Does he receive communion regularly? Yes No Is he a member of this parish? Yes No

If not, to what parish does he belong? \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? \_\_\_\_\_

Will any proxy be used? Yes No

Godmother \_\_\_\_\_ Over 16 yrs. of age? Yes No

Baptized Catholic? Yes No Attends Mass weekly? Yes No Confirmed? Yes No

Is she married? Yes No If married, was marriage witnessed by Catholic priest? Yes No

Does she receive communion regularly? Yes No Is she a member of this parish? Yes No

If not, to what parish does she belong? \* \_\_\_\_\_

If not Catholic, what religion is Christian witness? \_\_\_\_\_ Will any proxy be used? Yes No

### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

We are aware that we must demonstrate an active commitment in the practice of our faith before our child will be baptized at St Joseph Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Father*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Mother*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Parents, please do not write below line.

\*\*\*\*\*

For Office Use Only

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Priest Interviewing*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Class*

### Pre-baptismal Class Attendance

	Class Date	Initials
Father		
Mother		

Letter from Pastor of Godfather received \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date Initials*

Letter from Pastor of Godmother received \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date Initials*

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

\* See the Godparent Form for Infant Baptism

**St. Joseph Church****Godparent Form for Infant Baptism**

Child's Name:

*First**Last*

Prospective Godparents: *After you fill out this form completely, please take it to your parish office where the bottom can be completed and the parish seal imprinted.*

Godparent,

Before signing please read the following church requirements for godparents. In accordance with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church, Canons 872, 874, 892, 893, to be a godparent a person must:

- Be a practicing Catholic (i.e. attends Mass and receives Holy Communion regularly), selected by the candidate's family with the intention of fulfilling this role
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation
- If married, be married in the Catholic Church
- Be neither the father nor the mother of the person to be baptized.

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am a member of the parish stated below and I fulfill the requirements of canon law to be a godparent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Prospective godparent's signature**

**TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE GODPARENT'S PARISH**

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of this parish, is a practicing Catholic, and, therefore, I recommend as a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pastor of prospective godparent's parish*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

(Church Seal)