

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Infant* Baptism Guidelines

Congratulations on the gift of new life to your family! We are pleased that you value Catholic faith and want to have your child become part of the Church through Baptism.

As parents, you will have a chance during the rite of Baptism to publicly accept the responsibility and commitment to *“bring your child up in the practice of the faith”* (Rite of Baptism). In light of this important choice, preparation for your child’s baptism requires serious and thoughtful consideration.

The preparation process includes:

- **Meeting with your parish priest** (for baptism application and interview);
- **Attending a Baptismal Preparation** (for a renewed appreciation of baptismal calling and your role as Christian parents).

To prepare for your meeting with the priest, you should:

- Decide who will be your child’s godparents (see attached guidelines);
- Discuss with your family about the Baptism date and time.
- If you wish to have your child baptized *outside your local parish*, ask for Permission from your parish.

As for the Baptismal Preparation:

- Both parents are expected to attend;
- We encourage godparents to participate as well (they may attend it in their local parish);

After completing the Baptismal Preparation, you and your child may be introduced to our community through a blessing in a Saturday/Sunday Mass.

Moreover, **regularly participating in the Sunday Eucharist**, at the Table of the Lord, is an important part of Catholic life. It deepens your communion with the Lord and the community. It helps you in your duty to pass on your faith to the next generation.

Finally, it is customary for parents to give an **Offering to the Parish** on the occasion of their child’s Baptism. The suggested donation is \$50, which may be given to the priest on the day of Baptism.

Our parish looks forward to the day when you will bring your child to the waters of new life. May God bless you, your child and family, keeping all of you in his love.

**The term “infant” here refers to children who have not yet reached the age of reason (less than 7).*



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