

BAPTISM PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The birth of a child is one of the most powerful signs of God's presence in our world; it is an event that generates boundless love, joy and hope.

When a child is born, the lives of husband and wife will never be the same again because now they are called to share their lives as parents – as FAMILY.

Whether the child is their first or fourth the presence of each new life is a time for parents to pause to celebrate – in FAITH - the great significance of both their desire to have their child welcomed into the Christian family – the Church.

The clergy and parishioners of Notre Dame de Lourdes Church believe it is our obligation to reach out to parents during this very special time and provide support and assistance in making the most of a grace-filled and God centered moment in a family's history - the Baptism of a child.

PRE BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS

Infant Baptism includes children from birth until their 7th birthday.

We do not deny Baptism to a child if the parents are unmarried or not married in the Catholic Church. However, there may be reason to postpone Baptism if parents are not practicing the Faith, or have no intention of living a Catholic life.

At least one of the parents must attend church at Notre Dame.

At least one parent must meet with the priest at least 2 weeks prior to the planned baptism to complete the baptismal information sheet and to

schedule the Baptism. **Please call ahead to assure the priest is available. The Birth Certificate needs to be brought to the meeting.**

Persons who are registered in another parish, and wish to have their child baptized at Notre Dame for a just cause, MUST have the permission of their pastor and must attend a Baptism Preparation class either at Notre Dame or any Catholic parish. Proof of attendance is required.

GODPARENTS (SPONSORS)

A child may have one or two godparents (sponsors). These are their requirements: 1) at least 16 years of age; 2) Confirmed and practicing the Catholic Faith; 3) living in harmony with the Faith and a good role model for the one being baptized. You may choose a non-Catholic (but baptized Christian) as a Christian witness, as long as you also have Catholic sponsor who fits the above requirements. Parents cannot be their own child's godparents. Godparents should attend the baptism preparation class.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

All parents, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, married or unmarried, are required to attend an evening conference. It is desirable to have the Godparents attend this class. Some of the dimensions of Baptism will be explored in the class:

The Dimensions of Faith, Community and Celebration

Classes in English are held on the third Sunday of each month from 3-5 p.m. in the Church basement. The class is taught by Della and Mike Gurule, 637-9025. Please call them beforehand.

THE BAPTISMAL CEREMONY

All parents may invite as many relatives and friends to the Baptismal Ceremony as they wish.

Baptisms are on Saturday's at 11 a.m.

Parents and Godparents have an active part in the ceremony.

A Baptismal Candle will be presented to the parents during the ceremony unless one is brought by the family.

A Baptismal Record (certificate) if not given at the ceremony can be obtained by calling Elisa at the office: 435-637-1846 ext. Zero.

BAPTISMAL ETIQUETTE

Please be on time, since there are other families participating in the ceremony along with your own. Please try to be in the church at least 15 minutes early. We will start on time!

Photographs may be taken during the ceremony.

Since the Church is a sacred place loud talking and other distracting forms of behavior are out of order.

All cell phones and beepers should be turned off when you are in the church. They detract from the sacredness of the Sacrament.

Parents and/or Godparents may give a donation to Notre Dame de Lourdes, on the occasion of the Baptism, in a spirit of thanksgiving. If a donation is given it should be done after the service.