



# Infant Baptism Requirements St. John the Baptist Parish Draper, UT

# INFANT BAPTISM

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized! We are delighted to help you through this process. Please read through the information and guidelines below to familiarize yourself with this sacrament.

**To begin the process a Baptism Registration Form needs to be completed and returned to the Parish Office.**

After receiving your Baptism Registration Form you will be contacted by a parish Baptism Coordinator to help you through the baptism process, requirements, scheduling, etc. Please allow at least one week after returning your form for a coordinator to contact you.

## REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

- 1. It is recommended to have a child baptized sometime within the first year after the child's birth, but parents can request baptism for a child up to the age of 6.** After the age of 6 once they have their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday, they are no longer eligible to be baptized in accordance with Canon law as an "Infant Baptism." Code of Canon Law 852 For a child who is 7 years of age, or older, to be baptized they would need to contact the Office of Faith Formation to inquire about C.C.D. (Conformity of Catholic Doctrine) classes which take up to two years.
- 2. It is not required but preferable that at least one parent is Catholic.** Regardless if the parents are Catholic, they must have the intention to raise their child in the Catholic faith, both by their example and teachings and that of the Godparents. "Assurance must be given that this gift will be able to grow through a genuine education in faith and in Christian living, that the sacrament may attain its full "truth." Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- 3. We ask that parents be registered members of Saint John the Baptist Parish.** If you are not currently registered and would like to join our parish family, we are happy to help you register.
- 4. If you are a registered member of another parish, we encourage you to talk to your pastor before proceeding with our process.** If after talking to your pastor you would still like to have your child baptized here, you must provide written permission from your pastor in order for us to celebrate your child's baptism.
- 5. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required.** The child's and parents' names as they are listed on the birth certificate is how they will appear on baptism certificate and in the Church records. No exceptions due to circumstances can be made regarding this.
- 6. Both parents and Godparents need to attend a baptism preparation class.** If the Godparents are not able to attend the preparation class at Saint John the Baptist, they may attend a baptism preparation class at their local parish and provide a certificate/letter of completion. Our Parish Baptism Coordinator will help you schedule a class with our parish. Code of Canon Law 851



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7. **Godparent Requirements: It is preferable to have a married Catholic couple that is active and practicing their faith to be godparents for a child.**
  - If the Godparents are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church not a civil marriage. If you are not married in the Church, you must be single and living on your own, not living together without marriage or in a civil union. Code or Canon Law 874
  - However, a single person may be a godparent as long as he/she is at least
    - 16 years of age and actively practicing their faith.
    - Has completed his/her sacraments (i.e. Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation).
  - In the case of two godparents, they must be of opposite gender.
  - If one, or both godparents, cannot be present at the baptism, the parents may designate a proxy to stand in for the godparent(s). It is necessary that the proxy has a good disposition towards the Catholic Faith.
8. Godparents need to request a Letter of Good Standing from their home parish. We need an original copy with a Priest's signature and parish seal.
9. There is a suggested donation of \$50.00 for baptism of a child and the use of Church facilities and supplies.
10. Although not necessary, a donation to the celebrant is appreciated.

**When requirements are completed your child's baptism will be scheduled on our parish calendar.**



# INFANT BAPTISM

## Understanding Infant Baptism

Holy Baptism is the basis of the 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 sons 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 in the word.'<sup>CC1213</sup>

When Adam sinned against God, he called upon himself and all his descendants, both a physical and spiritual death. When we are born, we bear not only his physical, human characteristics, but a soul tainted by his sin – Original Sin. Original Sin refers, not to a personal sin, but rather to the fallen state of mankind which the individual is born into. The Sacrament of Baptism wipes away the mark of original sin and the recipient dies to oneself and is reborn in Christ.

When your child is baptized, parents and Godparents will take the lead in the spiritual and moral development of the child. During the celebration of baptism you will be asked by the Church the following: "In asking for Baptism for your child, **you are undertaking the responsibility of raising them in the faith**, so that, keeping God's commandments, they may love the Lord and their neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?" Parents will answer, "We do!" Godparents are asked, "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty?" Godparents answer, "We are!" In the presence of God and His Holy Church you commit to a lifelong responsibility of raising and nurturing your child in the Catholic Faith.

"The parents' desire for their child's baptism must be sincere. Normally, this sincerity is evidenced by their own practice of the faith and by the fact that they do not view baptism as a mere social convention. This sincerity is the basis for the well-rounded hope that the child will be raised in the practice of the faith which the canon requires for the lawfulness of the baptism. If this well-founded hope is lacking, the celebration of the sacrament is to be delayed."<sup>Commentary of the Code of Canon Law, Canon 868</sup>

Administering the sacrament of baptism to an infant is a celebration of ever-growing faith that continually renews the lives of the parents, godparents, and the church community. Parents and godparents are bestowed with a great privilege and responsibility to share and live their faith openly with their newly baptized child as they mature to young adults. Infant baptism presents the parents, Godparents and Church community with the opportunity to deepen their relationships with God and further embrace the saving promise of Christ. By choosing baptism for an infant or young child, the parents, godparents and Church community acknowledge and accept the responsibility to continue the spiritual growth and development of the child by bringing them to the weekly celebration of Mass so that their gift of baptism can flourish and bear fruit.

It is of the utmost importance that you bring your child to the weekly celebration of Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that attending Mass each Sunday is a fundamental act of a faithful Catholic. Mass is not something we should only attend if we don't have plans, or is completely convenient and without sacrifice, it should be the central point of our lives. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith.



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**It cannot be emphasized enough the grace your family will receive when you go to Mass together as a family.**

**Love should be the foundation of your household.**

**We look forward to seeing you at Mass and may Christ be in your heart!**

**Canonical Provisions:** These are the rules of the Church regarding Baptism in order for an infant to be baptized in accordance with Church Law and guidelines, it is required that:

Canon 868: “The parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism, is to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason.”

It is not required but preferable that at least one parent is Catholic. Regardless if the parents are Catholic, they must have the intention to raise their child in the Catholic faith, both by their example and teachings and that of the Godparents. “Assurance must be given that this gift will be able to grow through a genuine education in faith and in Christian living, that the sacrament may attain its full “truth.” *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.*

Canon 874: “To be permitted to take on the function of Sponsor (Godparent) a person must: have completed the sixteenth year of age...Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist...Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.”

“But even a fully initiated Catholic may be restricted from exercising the office of sponsor if he or she does not live the faith in a manner that is in keeping with the responsibilities of this office. Thus, people who do not participate regularly in the Eucharist or who are living in marriages not recognized by the Church may not be qualified to function as sponsors.”

To be a godparent you must be at least 16 years of age, you must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church; baptism, first Holy Communion, & confirmation. If you are married, you must be married in the Catholic Church not a civil marriage. If you are not married in the Church, you must be single and living on your own, not living together without marriage or in a civil union.

Canon 851: The parents of an infant to be baptized and those who are to undertake the function of sponsor are to be instructed properly on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it...

Canon 852: ‘The prescripts of the canons on adult baptism are to be applied to all those who, no longer infants, have attained the use of reason. A person who is not responsible for oneself is also regarded as an infant with respect to baptism.’ “...the present canon defines the terms “adult” and “infant” for purposes of determining those subject to the prescriptions of the canons of adult baptism. According to canon 97, those who have not completed their seventh year are, for canonical purposes, “infants” and, therefore, not responsible for themselves. After the completion of their seventh year, they are presumed to have the use reason. Children over the age of seven are subject to the prescriptions of the canons regulating adult baptism because they “are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience and can undertake the personal preparation for baptism characteristic of an adult.

