

**Parish Requirements/Guidelines for the Rite of Infant Baptism**

We are excited that you have chosen to have your child baptized here at Holy Spirit, and we look forward to helping you bring your child into the Catholic Faith. Infant Baptism is for children from newborn to age 6. If your child is 7 years old or older, please contact the Religious Education office at (559) 434-3522. The following are requirements for parents and godparents:

* There must be a founded hope that the child being baptized will be brought up in the Catholic religion
* Prior to scheduling a baptismal date, parents must attend a baptism preparation class
* Requests for baptism may only be made by a child’s parent or legal guardian
* Non-parishioners must provide a letter of permission from their home parish
* A godparent must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
	+ They must have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, & Confirmation)
	+ If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church
	+ You may have two godparents, one male and one female
	+ In addition to a qualifying godparent, a non-Catholic may stand up with the parents at the baptism, but their name will not appear on the certificate. They will be considered a “Christian Witness”
		- Catholics are not eligible to be a Christian Witness
* Godparents must attend a baptismal preparation class, either here at Holy Spirit or through another church

**Scheduling the Rite of Baptism**

To schedule a baptism, please contact the parish office and arrange the date and time for the baptism of your child. These dates have been prescheduled on the parish calendar and are reserved on a first come, first served basis. The following are general guidelines for the scheduling of an infant baptism:

* Baptisms are generally scheduled at 10:00am on Saturdays.
* Baptisms take place in the parish church.
* Children are encouraged to come dressed in a white garment to the baptismal ceremony.
* Father/Deacon will not completely immerse the infant into the church baptismal font unless arranged specifically by the parents prior to the ceremony. Water from the font will be poured over the head of the infant or child.
* A special Baptismal candle will be furnished by the parish to the family of each child.
* An official Certificate of Baptism will be provided to the parents after the ceremony.
* Parents may make a suggested donation of $50.00 to the parish office prior to their child’s baptism.

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