

## Baptism of Infants & Children through 6 Years of Age

The Church urges parents to see to the baptism of their children as soon as possible after their birth. The baptism of children is based upon the faith of the parents and godparents. In order for parents and godparents to have some understanding of the sacrament and to know their responsibilities, we ask them to participate in baptismal instruction.

Baptismal preparation classes at St. Pius X are normally held in room CC #1 on the First Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Both the parents who wish to have their child baptized, as well as the godparents, are asked to attend a baptismal preparation class.

Usually, Baptisms are celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the church. However, a baptism celebration may be scheduled at another time by arranging this with one of the priests or deacons.

### Basic Requirements for Parents

- Must be registered members of St. Pius X Parish and should be practicing their Catholic faith, including attendance at Sunday Mass and living the teachings of the Catholic Church. If not, they must have a willingness to do so. They must also assure that their child is raised and educated in the Catholic Faith and that the child will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the future.
- If parents belong to another parish, they will need to obtain a letter of permission from their pastor to have their child baptized at St. Pius X. Also, if parents attend a class elsewhere, a letter verifying class attendance should be presented prior to the baptism.
- Must register for and attend the baptismal preparation class. Please contact the parish office at (361) 993-4053 to register prior to attending the class. The registration form can be found at the link on the right side of this page.
- A copy of the child's birth certificate (Bureau of Vital Statistics) will need to be provided to assure that all information is recorded properly.

### Requirements for Godparents

- At least one godparent needs to be Catholic. If there are two godparents, they must be a man and a woman.
- Must be attending Mass on Sundays on a regular basis.
- Must be at least 16 years old and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist.
- If married, godparents must be married in the Catholic Church & provide copy of Marriage Certificate
- If single, must not be living with someone with whom they are not married.
- Must be in good standing with the Church.
- Must attend baptismal instruction class prior to the baptism.
- If from another parish, godparents should bring a letter from their pastor verifying their suitability to serve as godparents as well as a letter verifying that they have attended baptismal classes if they do not attend class at St. Pius X.
- A non-Catholic is not able to be a godparent, but if living their own Christian faith, can stand with the godparent as a "Christian Witness" to the baptism.

## Baptism for Children Age 7 through High School

Once a child has reached the age of 7 years old, he or she is considered to be of "catechetical age" and is able to comprehend and learn the Catholic Faith and the meaning of the sacraments. Therefore, the child is enrolled in the religious education program with the appropriate age group where he or she will receive instruction for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.