



## **BAPTISM**

### **“Sacrament of Welcome”**

#### ***What is Baptism?***

Baptism begins the process of initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ. This initial sacrament washes away all sin, frees us from the power of darkness and brings us into the community of God’s faithful people, spanning all times and places, and giving a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Parents who are seeking Infant Baptism for children newborn up to 6 years old participate in a Baptism Preparation class where there will be presentations on the liturgy and theology of Baptism, as well as a chance to explore ways to practice Christian parenting. Parents and Godparents also attend a rehearsal prior to the baptism. Expectant parents are welcome, and encouraged to attend the class prior to the birth of their child.

At least one parent must be Catholic and a registered member of the parish, or have a personal connection with a registered parishioner, e.g., grandparents are members of the parish. If you are registered in another parish and are requesting that your child be baptized at Holy Family, your Pastor will need to send our Pastor, Fr. Nagel, a letter giving his permission.

#### ***Godparents***

The role and responsibility of the Godparent is to aid and assist the parents with the spiritual development of the child. The Godparents need to be active, practicing and confirmed Catholics, at least 16 years in age. They must submit written proof of conformity to Canon Law from their parish, and attend a baptism preparation class for Godparents at Holy Family or in their own parish. A non-Catholic Christian can participate (*along with* the Godparent) as a Christian Witness to the baptism. Please read the article on Godparenting, “Handing on the Gift of Faith”, which you can find with the registration forms on this web page. The Godparents you choose must be aware of their role and responsibilities as discussed in this article. They will be important figures in your child’s spiritual development, so you will want to spend time in prayer and discernment before choosing them.

#### ***Baptism Mass Times***

Holy Family Parish celebrates Infant Baptisms approximately six times a year (see the Infant Baptism Schedule for dates) during our weekend Masses:

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday @ Youth Mass (September through May only)