



Guidelines for Baptism

For Children under seven years old

Baptism is the port of entry into a life of faith in Jesus Christ, which finds expression in being a member of His Mystical Body, the Church, concretely lived out in an active sacramental life of faith at a parish.

Baptismal benefits and its responsibilities:

Through sacramental signs, Baptism brings the seeds of divine life into the very soul of the child, making the young one into a child of God and a vessel of the Holy Spirit. Baptism confers great dignity upon the child, illumining the young one with grace and spiritual light for the journey ahead. As such, the celebration of Baptism is moment of great joy for the parents as they see the promises of Christ and the hope of eternity dawn on their child. It is also a day of great joy for the Church as the works of Christ are fulfilled right before our eyes. The Risen Christ once said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and on the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The ritual of Baptism makes reality this great commission of our Blessed Lord. It thus also becomes a days of great joy for our parish family as we see Christ acting among us, enabling our parish community to grow in number.

Requirements:

The parents and godparents of a child to be baptized have a profound responsibility on behalf of the child they bring to the Sacrament. Their commitment to raise the child in the practice of the faith, so that the seeds of divine life come to fruition in the child, is an important responsibility, indeed.

To help with this, the Church requires that parents and godparents attend a Baptismal Class, so that they can come to know their faith better, and re-discover the implications of their own Baptism. Although this class can be taken at any Catholic Church, **the parish Church of Saint Gregory the Great offers this class on two Saturday mornings each month for your convenience. The second Saturday of the month the class is offered in English; the fourth Saturday of the month the class is offered in Spanish (NO CLASSES OFFERED ON THE MONTH OF JULY).** You may register for it sending an email to mbetancourt@saintgreg.org or calling our office at 954-473-6261 Ext 153. Once attended, a certificate of attendance will be issued, which must be presented to the staff member charged with the responsibility of scheduling the date of the Baptism. **CHILDREN ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN THE CLASS ROOM. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.**

In addition to attending the class, **godparents are presume to have themselves already received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), be no less than sixteen years of age, and to live a life in harmony with Catholic Teaching.** The godparent is to submit a copy of their Confirmation

Certificate, or a recently issued copy of their Baptismal Certificate which includes the notation of their Confirmation. They are also required to submit an endorsement letter from the parish of their registration, or to sign a "Life in Harmony with the Faith" document (affidavit) which can be provided for you here at our parish office. Please make sure the godfather is not either the father or the mother of the child to be baptized.

Ideally, there are to be two godparents, (one of each gender), a godmother and godfather; but there must minimally be one sponsor who is able to fulfill the canonical requirements of this sublime role.

Overview of Baptismal Process

- 1. Initial Inquiry. Please contact the Church Office for an application form at 954-473-6261 ext. 153 or mbetancourt@saintgreg.org
- 2. Gather necessary documents
 - a. Copy of birth certificate of child to be baptized **(IF THE CHILD IS 7 YEARS OR OLDER. THE CHILD NEEDS TO REGISTER FOR THE BAPTISM CLASS WITH OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE. PLEASE CALL ISABEL AT 954-473-6261 Ext 149)**
 - b. **If either parent will not be present, are nor married, or one of them is not Catholic a notarized letter of permission by the other parent is needed. Please request a format of this letter in our office.**
 - c. Copy of godparents' confirmation certificate or a recently issued copy of their baptismal certificate with notations about the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - d. Godparents' letter from their own Catholic parish, indicating that they are Catholics in good standing, living "a life in harmony" with the church, in the absence of this, and affidavit must be signed, which indicates such status. Forms can be acquired at our church office.
- 3. Attend a pre-baptismal class. Contact parish office for schedule and registration. Bring certificate of attendance to church office. **This is a requirement for both Parents and godparents.**
- 4. Make anticipated donation to the parish. Should be done at the church office in advance of the Ceremony, according to schedule below, or personal means.
- 5. Gather all documentation along with Baptism registration form and bring them to Church office to schedule the date of the Baptism ceremony
- 6. Celebrate the Ceremony.

Anticipated Donation to the Church

Although there is absolutely no cost for a Sacrament of the Church, there are very real costs for anything in life, and in the organizational life of the community of God's people.

No one will ever be denied the opportunity to receive Sacrament for lack of ability to make a donation, yet the following suggested donation is an anticipated suggestion.

Sacrament of Baptism\$0

Preparation Day Materials	\$30
Ceremonial Supplies	\$10
Electricity, A/C, Custodial	\$30
Priest Personnel, prep Staff	\$30
	<u>Total \$100</u>

**** Contribution for a private baptism is \$300**

Scheduling

- The date of Baptism cannot be reserved until all the above mentioned requirements have been met, and all documents have been received. Call our office if you have any questions 954-473-6261 ext. 153.

Ceremony

- Communal Group Baptisms are celebrated on **the first and third Sunday of each month in English and the last Sunday of the month in Spanish at 1:30 PM.** Please call our office for more details about our schedule 954-473-6261 ext. 153. ***Private baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays at 9:00 AM according to church availability.**
- Addressing the aforementioned real costs to the church, an anticipated donation of \$100 is requested for those participating in group Baptisms.

We look forward to celebrating with you this momentous day of grace in the life of your child. God Bless you