

## **The Sacrament of Baptism**

Parents who ask that their child be baptized into Christ have the most significant part to play in the passing on the Catholic faith. It is through you that your child will come to know the love of God. It is through you that your child will become involved in the larger community in which he/she lives. Through you, your child will acquire an awareness of being a living and active member of the church.

Bringing your child to the baptismal font expresses your commitment to raise your child in the Catholic faith. This faith needs to be awakened, strengthened and developed as the child matures. To present your child for baptism is to accept responsibility for the growth of that faith.

The cluster parishes of St. Mary's, Holy Trinity and St. Joseph's under the leadership of Fr. Marty Goetz and Bishop Martin Amos, expects that:

1. Parent(s) be registered members of the parish.
2. Parents be practicing Catholics who attend liturgy each week in their parish.
3. Parents are to attend parish sponsored baptismal preparation classes prior to having their child baptized. Classes are held in October, March and July. For information on dates and times of classes, please call St. Mary's parish office (319) 648-2331.
4. If you have taken preparation classes before we may ask that you retake the sessions if you are not attending Mass on a regular basis or you are new to the parish.

The responsibility of Christian parents is holy, important, and often difficult. Therefore, it is very understandable that you should invite family and friends to assist in the responsibility of raising your child Catholic. It is the godparents who most explicitly assume the responsibility with the parents and should be ready to help the parents foster their child's relationship with God.

### **What are the requirements for someone to be a godparent?**

**At least one godparent must be a confirmed Catholic, 16 years of age, and already received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.** A baptized person, 16 years of age or older, who belongs to a non-Catholic faith community may be a Christian witness to baptism together with the Catholic godparent.

## **Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism**

The celebration of Baptism takes place during one of the regular weekend Masses. Baptisms are not scheduled during the seasons of Lent or Advent. Please contact Fr. Marty Goetz (319) 648-2331 to schedule the day of your child's baptism.

### ***Upcoming dates for classes***

Tuesday, June 7, 2011	6:30 – 8:00 pm
Sunday, September 11, 2011	3:00 – 4:30 pm
Sunday, November 13, 2011	3:00 – 4:30 pm
Sunday, January 8, 2012	3:00 – 4:30 pm
Sunday, March 18, 2012	3:00 – 4:30 pm

### ***Dates for Baptisms***

Sunday, June 19, 2011	Baptism welcomes your child into your church family. The baptism will take place in the parish in which you are a member. (St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, St. Joseph's)
Sunday, September 18, 2011	
Sunday, November 20, 2011	
Sunday, January 15, 2012	
Sunday, April 15, 2012	