

Dear Parents and Godparents:

Following are requirements that must be followed for the baptism of infants at Saint Joseph Church. These requirements are modeled after Code of Canon Law 849-878 and the Archdiocese of Denver Pastoral Handbook 5.2.1-5.2.7.2.

Parents

- 1) Baptism should take place as soon as possible after birth.
- 2) There must be a hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic Religion
 - a) Parents, please carefully discern your desire for baptism of your child. In the baptism rite, you will pledge to bring the child up in the Catholic Faith. In order to teach the faith to your child, you should be attending Sunday Mass regularly, you should be involved in your Church family beginning with registering as a parishioner and you should be living your faith at home with consistent prayer and other activities that nurture the faith of your family. The Church recognizes and takes seriously the fact that the parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.
- 3) Parents must attend Pre-baptismal instruction provided by Saint Joseph Church
 - a) These classes are currently held the First Wednesday of every month.
 - b) It is recommended that parents take this instruction before the birth of the baby.
- 4) Please carefully consider your choice of Godparents. The role of godparents is to help the parents raise the child in the Catholic faith. The Church has strict requirements for Godparents. Please carefully read those requirements.

Godparents

- 1) Godparents must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church (have received Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation) living a life consistent with the Faith, and not bound by Canonical sanction.
- 2) Godparents must be registered, active members of a Catholic Church.
- 3) For baptisms at Saint Joseph Church, Godparents must attend Pre-baptismal instruction or fulfill the requirements of their Church of Registration.
- 4) If Godparents are not parishioners of Saint Joseph Church, they must provide, from their Church of registration, a letter stating that they are Catholics in good standing with their church and have fulfilled any requirements to become Godparents.
- 5) Godparents must have completed the sixteenth year of age unless the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause.
- 6) Godparents cannot be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
- 7) There may be either a godfather and godmother or one godparent of either gender.
- 8) A baptized Christian of another faith may be a witness to the baptism along with (but not separate from) a Catholic godparent.

Please contact Jeanette Coleman at 482-4148 ext. 278 or jlcoleman@stjosephchurchfc.org for more information and to register for the next class.