

## INTRODUCTION

We, the priests and people of St. John the Evangelist Parish, are happy for you and wish to be of service as you prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism. In this pamphlet, you will find the Catholic Church's instructions and necessary information to enable you to prepare for the entrance of your child into God's holy Church.

## THE CEREMONY

1. The Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month in St. John the Evangelist Church following the 10:30 AM (or in summer the 9:30 AM) Mass.
2. As a sign of unity that the Sacrament creates, all children will be baptized in the same ceremony.
3. The Church teaches that all babies born into Catholic families should be baptized soon after birth. The time will depend partly on the mother's health, for it is important that she is present, but the baptism should be within a few weeks of the child's birth.

## INSTRUCTION

1. Parents and godparents are required to attend one Baptismal Preparation Catechesis (Instruction).
2. Parents must pre-register at the Parish Office and will receive some preliminary instructional materials.
3. Participation in Baptismal Catechesis should be BEFORE the child's birth.
4. Those parents who have attended Baptismal Catechesis within the last three years are exempted from the obligation of attending this class.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to have a child baptized in the Catholic Church, parents must assure the pastor that the child will be raised a Catholic.
2. The Church recommends that the child be given a saint's name, but other additional names are permitted which are not offensive to the Faith.
3. Parents who are in irregular Church situations—not married, married outside the Church, or lapsed nonpracticing Catholics—will be required to have an interview with the pastor or assistant pastor before the baptism may take place.
4. A child seven years or above will be required to join a special children's instruction group (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children).
5. There is no charge for baptism. It is customary, however, for an offering to be made. This is usually done at the end of the ceremony. This offering is purely voluntary.

## SPECIAL SITUATIONS

1. If there is a serious danger, the baby must be baptized immediately and anyone can baptize. You pour water over the head of the baby, at the same time saying the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
2. Baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event. If a child has been baptized in an emergency, it cannot be repeated. However, it is desirable that you have a celebration in church and share in the prayers and blessings which are part of the ceremony. You may wish to appoint godparents at the same time.



**GODPARENTS**

1. There must be a godparent for the child to be baptized. The godparent, together with the parents, presents the child for baptism and helps the baptized to lead the Christian life expected by baptism.

2. There may be one godfather, one godmother, or one of each.

3. A godparent must be at least 16 years of age, has received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and an active Catholic in good standing with the Church.

4. If the godparent is an active registered Catholic of St. John’s Parish, he or she is automatically accepted as a godparent.

5. Godparents from outside our parish must have a sponsor’s card from their parish stating they meet the qualifications of being a sponsor. This card is brought to the Parish Office at least two weeks before the scheduled Baptism.

6. A non-Catholic person may be a witness. A baptized person, belonging to a non-Catholic Christian community, may be admitted as a witness to baptism, but only along with a qualified Catholic godparent.

7. An unbaptized person does not qualify as a godparent or Christian witness.

**Future Baptismal Dates**

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Please call the parish office if you need further assistance. One of our staff will be pleased to help. The office hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday. The office telephone is 570-253-4561.

**BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS**

**FOR**

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH**

**HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Phone: 570-253-4561**

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