

# St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

8014 State Road 52 ♦ Hudson, Florida 34667-6763 ♦ 727-868-5276 Phone ♦ 727-862-9187 Fax



## *Baptism Preparation Guidelines*

Congratulations on the arrival of your new child. Our Catholic Community joins you in thanking God for the gift of new life. The two greatest gifts that a parent can give to their child are the gift of unconditional love and the gift of the faith. The Catholic faith is rich with Tradition, Scriptures, and the Sacraments. By participating in the faith, we deepen our relationship with God and with others. By practicing the faith, we grow in holiness and love.

As you are seeking the baptism of your child in the Roman Catholic Church, the following guidelines are presented to help you embark upon this journey of faith with Christ and his Church.

### **SANCTIFYING ROLE OF THE CHURCH**

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is one of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church; frequently called the “first sacrament” as it is the gateway to the rest of the sacraments.

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of the mystical body of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “*Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.*” (CCC: 1213)

### **PARENTAL CONSENT**

Parents are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism. By having their child baptized, the parents accept the responsibility and obligation of raising the child in the Catholic faith, which requires participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

In order that a child be baptized, it is necessary that...

- the parents consent, or at least one of them, or someone legally standing in their place
- there is reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith

## GODPARENTS

A godparent is an important person in the life of the baptized since he/she is:

- 1) a spiritual role model
- 2) an example of the Christian life
- 3) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church,  
into which a individual is being baptized

Godparents are to be a source of guidance, support, and inspiration to the child on his or her faith journey and, when appropriate, help the parents in the Christian formation of the child.

In order for someone to be eligible as a Godparent, the following requirements must be met:

- the individual must be chosen by the parents
- the person must have the ability and the intention to fulfill the role
- the candidate must be at least 16 years of age
- the person must be a confirmed Roman Catholic, who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist, is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including Marriage) and will be a good role model for the one being baptized
- the Godparent cannot be either the father or the mother of the child

**The child to be baptized must have one Godparent; however two Godparents (one male and one female) is the ideal.**

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS

If you are unable to find two Godparents who meet the requirements, then you may select another individual to be a Christian Witness.

In order for someone to be eligible as a Christian Witness, the following requirements must be met:

- the person must be chosen by the parents
- the individual must have the ability and intention to fulfill the role
- the candidate must be a baptized member of a Christian faith
- the person must be at least 16 years of age

## PROXY

If a Godparent/Christian Witness is unable to attend the child's baptism, then the parents will need to select a Proxy. A Proxy is a person who is willing to stand-in for the Godparent/Christian Witness during the baptism. The Proxy must be a Christian who is at least 16 years of age.

## REQUIRED PAPERWORK:

1. Copy of the Child's Birth Certificate
2. Completed and Signed Baptism Registration Form
3. Two (2) Godparent Forms (Please note: one may be a Christian Witness Form which is on the back side of the Godparent Form)
4. Letter of Good Standing for each Godparent from the parish in which they are registered
5. Proxy Form (Only if a Godparent/Christian Witness cannot attend the baptism)
6. If the parents are registered parishioners of a Catholic Church other than St. Michael the Archangel, then a Letter of Permission is required from the pastor of that parish.

**\*\* Before a Baptism Date can be assigned, all the above Required Paperwork must be submitted and the Baptism Preparation Class must be completed.**

## **MARITAL STATUS**

Baptism is not denied if the parents are unmarried or not married in the Roman Catholic Church. However, there may be reason to postpone Baptism if the parents are not practicing the Faith, or have no intention of living a Catholic life in harmony with the Gospel. If your status is not in harmony with the Roman Catholic understanding of sacramental marriage, please inquire as to how we may help you enter into proper sacramental marriage or, if need be, seek a declaration of nullity by the Church.