

GODPARENTS

The godparent is a sponsor of one who is baptized, who assumes the responsibility to assist the newly baptized child on the road of Christian life.

CIC, 872

The requirements for Sponsor Letter:

1. Must be at least 16 years old.
2. Must have received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.
1. Must be living a life which reflects our Catholic Faith and the responsibilities which correspond.
4. Must be able to receive the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.
 - ◆ Must be married in the Catholic Church or Single.
 - ◆ Must be living a life in union with the Church.
 - ◆ If two separate individuals are chosen, they must meet the above mentioned requirements and be one male and one female.
 - ◆ Only one person is required and may baptize alone.
 - ◆ **A couple who is civilly married or cohabiting may not participate as a Godparents whether it is the couple or one individual person.**
5. The Godparents may not be the mother or father.
6. If Godparents are married they need to provide us with a copy of the marriage certificate through the catholic church.
7. If single he/she needs to provide us with a copy of the confirmation certificate.
8. Godparents must be registered and active (attending mass using their registration number) in a Catholic church. In this San Jose community, Godparents must be registered and active for at least 3 months.

Donation

We cordially request a \$40 donation per child to cover the office cost. It is also customary to give the celebrant of the baptism a personal donation when you receive the Baptism Certificate at the end of the service. We thank you in advance for your donations.



Sacrament of Baptism

San José Parish

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Welcome

Welcome to San José Parish. We are glad that you have decided to prepare for your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and grow God's family and our parish community.

We pray that the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism will be an enlightening experience for your family along with the Church of God and the Sacraments which she offers. We hope this will be a time of spiritual growth for your family.

Baptism

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which give access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become member of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213

Making the arrangements for your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in preparing for the most important day in the life of your child, the day of his/her Baptism. We strive to make this a positive experience for your family.

PARENTS

As parents, you have the primary responsibility to raise your children in the practice of the Catholic Church.

The following norms are required to baptize your child:

- At least one parent must consent to the baptism of the child in the Catholic Faith.
- The expectation and hope is that the child will be raised in the Catholic Church, practicing faith.
- The proper persons to present the infant in the faith are the parents.
- If there is another member of the family willing to take on this responsibility it may be done with the parent's consent and promise not to interfere with the person making the promise in his/her efforts to raise the child in the faith.
- Both parents must attend the Baptism Class.
- If your child is 7 years old 1 year first communion preparation is required and after his preparation he/she will be baptized Easter Vigil day.

Documents

1. **Birth Certificate** of the Child to be baptized. *(To start the process we can accept the child's proof of birth)* You will only receive the Baptism certificate after you submit the birth certificate. If we don't receive the Birth Certificate within 5 months we cannot guarantee the baptism will be recorded in the parish registry.
2. **Baptism Class Certificate for parents and Godparents**, must be sealed and signed.
3. **Permission to baptize for parents** from the Church where registered. Parents registered and attending this parish do not need permission to baptize here.
4. **Sponsor letter for Godparents** from the Church where registered. We require the original document sealed and signed. If godparents attend this parish they need to come into the office to request the Sponsor Letter (Oath before God) stating that they meet all the requirements to be Godparents. It will only be valid if authorized by the Priest. Without the Sponsor letters we cannot confirm baptism date.
5. **After meeting these requirements** there is a possibility that you will be asked to bring additional documents to complete the file, you will receive a phone call to let you know after all the documents have been revised.

ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE THE BAPTISM DATE, OTHERWISE THE BAPTISM WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL ALL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETE.

Baptism Class

The baptism class serves as an introduction to the Sacrament of Baptism. The class will also cover the celebration of the Rite of Baptism.

If you want to take the baptism class offered in this parish please arrive no later than 6:45pm to sign in.

- ◆ Class begins promptly at 7:00pm.
- ◆ Parents and Godparents need to attend the entire class.
- ◆ If you do not attend the entire class, you will not receive a class certificate.
- ◆ This certificate is valid for 2 years.
- ◆ The class is for adults only. **No children are allowed**

Pre-Registration

To begin with the process please bring:

- ⇒ copy of your child's birth certificate and the Godparents sponsor letter. *(NOTE: Information on the Baptism Certificate will be exactly as the Birth Certificate.)*
- ⇒ information regarding names, address, sacramental information, parish of registration and telephone numbers where the parents can be reached.
- ⇒ Registration is not official until all of the documents are approved by the baptism coordinator.

SETTING THE DATE FOR THE BAPTISM AND THE CLASS

- ◆ After you present the necessary documents then you may let us know the month when you want to baptize.
- ◆ Once the dates for the baptisms for that month become available the baptism coordinator will contact you to agree on the date, and to let you know the date and time of the class.
- ◆ **Dates are not available prior to the completion of the baptism registration.**
- ◆ Only the baptism coordinator can confirm the baptism date.
- ◆ Baptism dates are chosen according to the Parish Schedule.
- ◆ Baptism class dates are subject to change.
- ◆ There will be no baptism celebrations during Lent time. (Beginning Ash Wednesday and ending Easter Sunday)
- ◆ Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays.
- ◆ Please keep your telephone number updated in the office.

Thank you for taking the time to inform yourself regarding the baptism and spiritual well-being of your child. May God bless and keep you and your family safe from all harm.

BAPTISM COORDINATOR
SILVIA BENCOMO