

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT O.L.P.H.

“Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live anew life.” (Romans 6)

We here at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help are so pleased that you wish to have your child baptized into our Catholic Faith. Through baptism your child becomes a member of the community of the Church, a child of God, is freed from sin, and most importantly shares in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The instruction on the Rite of Baptism tells us: “Before the celebration of the sacrament, it is of great importance that parents, moved by their own faith or with the help of friends or other members of the community, should be prepared to take part in the rite with understanding. They should be provided with suitable means such as books, instructions, and catechisms written for families.” (#5) The following process is our community’s way of fulfilling this important requirement.

REGISTRATION

Since baptism makes us members of the Church, parents are required to have their children baptized in the parish in which they worship each week. Thus, in order to have your child baptized here at the Basilica, we require that you live within the boundaries of our parish and preferably have membership in the parish community. Baptism for children of non-parishioners will only be done for good reason and with a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish in which you reside.

We ask that you come to the parish office several weeks before the baptism interview to register for the next celebration of the sacrament.

THE INTERVIEW

You will find attached to these instructions, the baptismal schedule for the coming year.

An interview with one of the priests or deacons is required before any additional steps toward the sacrament. On the day of the interview, you **MUST BRING THE CHILD’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE**, this is essential in order for us to keep accurate records.

Interviews are conducted on the **FIRST SATURDAY** of each month from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Both parents are expected at the interview. If for a serious reason, the parents are not able to make the interview, they should speak with the pastor as soon as possible to reschedule.

GODPARENTS

The role of the godparents is to offer an example of Christian/Catholic living and to help the parents in their responsibility to be good Christian parents. Basically, this means that godparents must be practicing Catholics. Church law (Canon Law) states the following requirements for Godparents:

- 1) Only one male and one female can serve as a sponsor
- 2) Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.
- 3) Must be a Catholic who has received their first Eucharist and Confirmation.
- 4) Baptized Christians who are not Catholics are not considered godparents but Christian witnesses.

Godparents are required to attend preparation sessions with the parents unless they receive preparation from another parish, in which case they must bring a letter to verify their attendance.

PREPARATION CLASSES

We require that both parents and godparents attend two classes in preparation for the sacrament. You will find attached the schedule for these classes. Due to the importance of these classes, exceptions will only be made for serious reasons.

If possible, please consider a babysitter to care for your children when you attend the class. This allows for a more quiet atmosphere and better concentration during the preparation classes.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated in the UPPER CHURCH at 1:30 P.M. on the third Sunday of the month in Spanish and the Fourth Sunday of the month in English.

“Private Baptisms” are NOT permitted except for serious reasons.

We ask that NO pictures be taken during the actual celebration of the Sacrament. After the celebration you may remain for pictures.

BAPTISMAL OFFERING

At the end of the second preparation class, you will receive an offering envelope to help defray the costs of the preparation process. Your generous kindness will be greatly appreciated.

A FINAL NOTE

The entire staff here at the Basilica is here to assist you in every possible way. If we can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to ask.

Please remember that at your child’s baptism, you make a commitment to live your Catholic Faith and teach that faith to your child BY YOUR EXAMPLE far more than by your words.

We wish you God’s blessings at this joyous time!