

Baptism for Infants and Children under Seven Years Old

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
--Matthew 28:19

Congratulations on the birth of your child! You give your children many things - food, shelter, clothing, education, a loving home, and a caring family. But nothing is more important or more loving than giving saving faith. Through baptism, your child will belong to Christ forever.

To begin the process of having your child baptized at Sacred Heart Parish, we ask that you attend a class to prepare for this moment in your child's life. Classes are held periodically throughout the year.

To aid in planning for your child's baptism we have included the Diocese of Phoenix requirements for Infant Baptism (under 7 years old) and a brief overview of the process below. We look forward to celebrating this first sacrament with your family!

Scheduling the Baptism

- If the parents are registered Sacred Heart parishioners, please visit the parish office to receive a schedule of Baptism classes.
- If the parents are not registered members of Sacred Heart, we invite you to join our community and register at the parish office on a Sunday after Mass. If you are active members of another parish, we generally recommend that you have the Baptism at your parish.
- Attend the Baptism Preparation Class where you will learn the theology of infant baptism, fellowship with other parents, and ensure the Baptisms documentation is completed.
- Parents must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Godparents

Godparents are chosen for their faithful commitment and for their ability to assist the Godchild and parents on their faith journey. Only one Godparent is required for baptism, either male or female; if two Godparents are selected, then one must be male and the other female. Each proposed Godparent needs to be certified by their own parish as meeting the requirements for Godparents.

Each Godparent must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- May not be the natural or adoptive parent of the child being baptized.
- Must be fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion).
- Must be an active, practicing Catholic in full communion with the Catholic Church and striving to live a life in harmony with its teachings.
- If married, the marriage must be valid according to Church teaching. This means that they are living a sacramental marriage (this excludes co-habitation and mere civil marriage).
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