



# St. Viator Catholic Community

## Infant Baptism Procedures

### **Congratulations and Welcome!**

Congratulations on the birth or adoption of your child. God has given you a precious gift. Now, in baptism, you give the child back to God, and God becomes the adoptive Father of your child! We welcome you to St. Viator Catholic Community and look forward to assisting you during this special time.

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of Christian initiation, along with Confirmation and first Holy Communion. Through baptism, we are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, and incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ. Once received, baptism is a definitive gift from God that never needs to be repeated. Through baptism, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ and receive the promise of eternal life (see Romans 6:3-11).

### **Bringing Children up Catholic**

Because of the importance of baptism, there must be a founded hope that an infant will be brought up in the Catholic faith (Code of Canon Law, canon 868, §1). After baptism, parents promise to bring their children to Mass, to make sure that their children are educated in the faith, and to make sure that they receive the sacraments of first penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.

### **Older Children**

For children entering first grade or older, please contact Rosy Hartz, our Youth Faith Formation Coordinator at [rosyhartz@stviator.org](mailto:rosyhartz@stviator.org) for enrollment in the children's faith formation program.

### **Baptism Preparation Class**

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith (canon 774, §2). Therefore, parents are required to be instructed on the meaning of the sacrament of baptism and the obligations that come from it (canon 851, 3°). To fulfill this requirement, parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation class.

St. Viator's baptism preparation class consists of two sessions (held separately). These sessions are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Session 1 (first meeting): An informal meeting with other parents wishing to have their child baptized. Ideas and practices are exchanged to help us put into practice Christian principles in our everyday living.

Session 2 (second meeting): This group meeting will build on Session 1 and discusses the theology of the Sacrament.

Please contact the Baptism Coordinator, Beth Schill, [bschill@stviator.org](mailto:bschill@stviator.org) or (702-733-8323 at Ext. 302) at the Parish Office, in advance, to sign-up for the Baptism Preparation Sessions.

If the parents have attended Baptism preparation previously, please contact our Coordinator, to discuss your modified preparation requirements.

# Infant Baptism Procedures - continued

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

### **Copy of Birth Certificate**

A copy of the birth certificate (or finalized adoption papers) is to be submitted in advance of the baptism.

### **Completed Baptism Registration Form**

Basic information required for the Baptism Coordinator to record your child's baptism correctly is located on this document (found on our website and also given at class).

### **Godparents**

Parents may choose godparents for their children from among family and friends qualified to serve in that capacity. Parents may choose a godfather and a godmother or just one godparent (canon 873). We welcome all family and close friends to participate at the Baptism. Please note, no more than two Godparents will be listed on the Baptismal Certificate. Godparents not only serve as a witness at the ceremony of baptism but also assist the baptized in leading a Christian life (canon 872). One of the prospective Sponsors must be a Roman Catholic in "good standing" which means:

They should be at least 16 years old.

They must be Catholics who have received baptism, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.

They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.

Parents or step-parents of the child to be baptized may not serve as godparents.

The Confirmation certificate or an affidavit of Confirmation is required to be submitted. Godparents are not required to attend Baptism Preparation Sessions. However, a godparent class is offered the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center for those who are interested.

### **Proxies for Godparents**

If godparents are not able to be present in person for the baptism, proxies may be designated to stand in for them at the ceremony.

### **Baptism Scheduling**

Baptisms are usually scheduled the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. The dates vary depending on Holy Days and Weddings. Please contact our Coordinator to check on specific dates. If there is a unique family situation and you cannot attend a Saturday Baptism all efforts will be made to accommodate your request.

### **Offerings**

It is customary to make an offering to the parish on the occasion of a baptism. As we know Mary and Joseph offered two turtle doves at the circumcision of Jesus. Following that tradition parents give an offering to the Church. The suggested offering of \$40 will be collected by the baptism coordinator when turning in your paperwork to schedule your child's baptism.



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