

# Baptism at Most Sacred Heart

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Scheduling a Baptism at Most Sacred Heart**

#### **Q – What is the process for having my child baptized at Most Sacred Heart?**

A – At Most Sacred Heart the process for having your child baptized is:

- You must be a registered parishioner. If not, please call the office about the process of registering.
- Review and complete the paperwork
- Participate in a two-hour baptismal preparation class
- Return paperwork to the baptism preparation class that you attend
- Schedule the baptism

#### **Q – What if we have not been going to Church?**

A – This could be a new beginning for you! For the sake of your child (and for the whole family) we ask that you would be committed to making sure that your child grew up in a home where at least one parent went to Mass on a regular basis; where Jesus was talked about, and talked to; and where service to others is witnessed as a value. We would LOVE to welcome you home to a new beginning with us!

#### **Q – We live in Most Sacred Heart but want to have our child baptized somewhere else. Is that possible, and if so, what do we have to do?**

A – Yes, it is possible. If you are a registered parishioner, we will give you a letter to present to the parish where you want the baptism to take place giving them permission to have the ceremony there. Contact the parish where you want the baptism to take place, and find out their requirements. If they want you to attend a baptism preparation class here, you could attend ours and we would give you a letter stating that you attended.

#### **Q – Is it possible to have our son's/daughter's child baptized at Most Sacred Heart even though they live out-of-town?**

A – Yes, this is what is required:

- They must have a letter from the pastor of the parish where they are registered, giving permission to have their child baptized at Most Sacred Heart.
- They are required to attend a baptism preparation class, and must also have a letter from that parish indicating when they attended the class.
- They must complete our baptism forms and return them to the parish by mail at least 2 weeks before the baptism.

#### **Q – We have already attended a Baptism class here or elsewhere. Do we need to attend one again?**

A – If the last time you attended class was more than 4 years ago, we ask that you do attend a class here. The purpose of the class is to help you:

- Understand the requirements and responsibilities of the parents and godparents
- Know when and how the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at Most Sacred Heart
- Know what to expect at the baptism ceremony at Most Sacred Heart and be prepared to fully participate.

## Questions about the Sacrament of Baptism

**Q – What is the oldest age I could have a child baptized.**

A – Any person, whatever their age, can be baptized. It is the Church’s understanding that a child reaches the ‘age of reason’ at 7 years. From that age on up, therefore, they would use a process similar to one for an adult who would want to become Catholic. For children age 7 on up, please contact the rectory with your request.

**Q – Is there a charge for the sacrament of baptism?**

A – No, there is no charge. If you want to, you may give a stipend to the celebrant.

**Q – I would like to have my child baptized at the parish, but s/he was already baptized at the hospital after being born because s/he was very ill.**

A – Your child can’t be re-baptized, but certainly can experience all the other rituals. The ceremony would be the same as for a regular baptism, but would not include the pouring of water, and no new baptism would be recorded in our records. The Celebrant of this rite should be contacted in advance to let them know that this is what needs to be done for this family.

## Sponsors or Godparents

**Q – Who can be a Sponsor or Godparent?**

A – A Sponsor or Godparent will, together with the parents, help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism. At least one **sponsor** (sometimes referred to as “Godparent”) is required for a child’s baptism and they must meet the following requirements. To be a sponsor one **MUST**:

- 1.1- Be designated by the one to be baptized, by their parents, or by the pastor.
- 1.2- Be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- 1.3- Be a fully initiated Catholic, having received: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- 1.4- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church.
- 1.5- Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

## The Baptismal Certificate

**Q – Will a copy of the baptismal certificate be mailed to us?**

A – The baptismal certificate will normally be given to you following the ceremony, and the baptism will be recorded in the parish records.

**Q – If I misplaced the baptismal certificate, how can I get a new copy?**

A – You must contact the parish where your child was baptized; they will ask you the name of the child and approximate date of baptism, then they will issue another certificate. If the baptism was performed at a military base, contact the Archdiocese for Military Services

**Q – The parish where my baptism (or one of our children) was celebrated has since closed. Whom do I contact to get a new baptismal certificate?**

A – When a parish no longer exists, its records are either transferred to the parish that has taken over its boundaries or to the Chancery of the diocese where the parish was located. We would suggest first contacting the Chancellor of the diocese to see where the records are now being kept, and they will refer you to the correct person to contact.

### **The Celebrant**

**Q – Can I request one of our parish clergy to celebrate our child’s baptism?**

A – Most of the time we can tell you who is scheduled to celebrate the baptisms on any given weekend and you can see if that works with your schedule. (There can, of course, always be some last minute changes with this).

**Q – We have a relative or good friend who is a priest or deacon and we want them to perform our child’s baptism at our parish. Is that possible?**

A – Yes it is. We welcome other members of the clergy to celebrate the sacrament of baptism at Most Sacred Heart. We would normally schedule those baptisms on a date and time other than our regularly scheduled baptisms. Please specify this request when calling to schedule your baptism, and we will help you in making these arrangements.

### **Dates and Times of Baptisms**

**Q – What is the time of the baptism?**

A – Baptisms normally start after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday mornings as soon as the celebrant can get ready and the family is all gathered. We ask, if possible, that you to attend the 11:00 mass. Then, when mass is over, move to the north transept area near the baptismal font so that the celebrant can locate you. If you are not attending the 11:00 mass, then please come to church by noon.

**Q – Can we have our child baptized at mass?**

A – Normally we do not do that at Most Sacred Heart, except on the feast of ‘The Baptism of Our Lord’ which is celebrated in early January.