

## **Congratulations!**

You have taken an extremely important step in you and your family's spiritual life. Thank you for choosing St. Francis De Sales to baptize your child.

Here are some basic Baptism guidelines and Information for Infants to children under the age of 7.  
(Code of Canon Law, cc. 867-868; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1251)

- For a child to be baptized, it is necessary that the parents' consent, or at least one of them, or someone legally standing in their place, and that there is a reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith.
- The parents must intend to raise the child in the Catholic faith.
- At least one parent must be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic church and be in good standing with their parish.
- A permission letter from your pastor is needed for baptisms at a different church.
- The child's birth certificate or hospital record should be available for presentation to the parish.
- For married parents, the parent's marriage certificate should be presented to the parish. However, even for parents married outside of the church, baptism is not to be denied to the infant. If you are currently married outside of the church, this is an ideal time to have your marriage blessed to rectify this. When they contact you for baptismal preparation, you will be able to ask the deacon or priest how to get your marriage blessed. Each parent must attend a baptism preparation class.
- The godparent(s) or sponsor(s) will be chosen by the parents.
- All children who are baptized must have at least one godparent/sponsor. A person may only have one or two godparents or sponsors. If two are chosen, they must be male and female. They are to fill out the godparent eligibility form (see attached).
- At least one godparent must be a confirmed Roman Catholic, baptized and confirmed, living a life in accordance with the Catholic Faith, and serving as a good role model for the child being baptized. Also, the godparent/sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a "Christian witness" (not a godparent) if there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc. 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1255).

Currently, SFDS baptizes on Saturdays at either 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. in the Stone Chapel. I will need to receive the following documents and to meet before I am able to set a date for your baptism.

- Birth Certificate or Hospital Record of Birth
- For married couples, a marriage certificate
- Forms signed by the godparent(s) or sponsor(s) attesting to their good standing with their parish/church. These forms may be emailed to me at [Linda.Midwig@archbalt.org](mailto:Linda.Midwig@archbalt.org)
- Make an appointment to meet with me to fill out the baptism form. Please bring a picture ID for verification.