

# Baptism Regulations



## SETON PARISH

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600 Hill Road, N.

Pickerington, OH 43147

# Baptism Regulations

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Dear Parents:

We rejoice with you as we look forward to the Baptism of your child. By dying and rising with Christ, your child will be initiated into the family of faith that is the Church. What a joy we share with you as you welcome your child into our faith community.

During this time of preparation for your child's Baptism, and throughout your time in our parish, we are eager to assist you, who are the primary instructors of your child in the faith. We hope that you will find in our parish community a nurturing support for both your faith and the faith of your child.

It is a special challenge and privilege to live and share Catholic family life. We deeply reverence your vocation and ministry as parents. We pray that your family will grow with our family as we help each other live the life of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Jim, Deacon Hector & Deacon Greg

## **Requirements for Baptism**

Life in Christ is the Father's greatest gift to his people. To bring your child for Baptism means to share your gift of faith with your child, provide for its nurture and growth, participate in the life of the Church, and anticipate eternal life with the Trinity. To celebrate Baptism is to reflect Easter resurrection.

By Baptism your child is initiated into the Catholic Church and is made one with all the baptized. Your child begins a journey of initiation that continues with the celebration of the sacrament of First Eucharist and Confirmation. The parish community also welcomes its newest members, acknowledging its responsibility for their faith development by example, prayer and support.

Thus, the basic requirements for the Baptism of your child are:

- 1) a living faith on the part of at least one parent
- 2) active participation in the life of the parish faith community

It is essential that you, as parents, value and live your faith, that you understand the meaning of Baptism and that you can give assurance that your child will be raised in a Catholic faith community of family and Church. In this way, you will be able to do your best to participate in the mission of the whole Church – to go and make disciples of all nations.

## **The Baptismal Preparation Process:**

The preparation process for parents is the primary way in which the parish can support you in your vocation as Christian parents. The preparation may vary according to your needs, your relationship to the Church, and your instruction in the faith.

You will be asked to attend a baptismal instruction course offered by the parish. This course is offered every other on Saturday Morning. The session runs for approximately 3.5 hours. We do recommend that you attend before the birth of your child.

The Baptismal class will cover the following materials related to baptism:

- 1) The Catholic Celebration of Baptism – an explanation of the rite and symbols, answers to basic questions.
- 2) The Responsibilities of Christian Parenthood – a review of the basic expectations of the Church for those presenting children for Baptism, and examination of the meaning of this moment for parents.
- 3) Christian Initiation and Adult Faith Formation – description of the significance of initiation for adults and children.

- 4) For more information to help you prepare for the Baptism of your child, it is highly recommended that you register for FORMED.ORG and view the videos under the Reborn program. [Please follow this link to register for Formed if you have not already done so.](#) Follow the instructions for registration. Please call the parish office if you need assistance with the registration process.

### **The Requirements for Godparents:**

It is the serious responsibility of the godparents to assist parents in the Christian formation of their children – the role of godparent is not simply an honorary role. They are called to give witness in the practice of the Catholic faith, and to be models of keeping God’s commandments by loving God and neighbor.

Therefore, it is necessary that the godparents be active, practicing Catholics, who frequent the celebration of the sacraments and whose lives bear witness to the Gospel.

A proxy may “stand in” for a godparent in the event that the godparent is unable, for some reason, to attend the ceremony.

A non-Catholic Christian may serve as a “witness” to the sacrament in place of a godparent, provided there is one Catholic godparent who meets the requirements above.

### **Naming a Newborn Christian:**

Giving a name to your newborn child is one of the most significant things you, as a parent, do.

It has long been the practice of Christians to name their children after one of the saints or after great women and men of the Bible.

The saint, after whom your child is named, becomes the newborn’s “patron” whose life of courage and strength can be a model of Christian faith and inspiration throughout his/her life.

You are encouraged to choose at least one name from our religious heritage for your child as a way of remembering those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, and also as a reminder that we are called to the holiness of the saints through our common baptism and faith in Christ.

If you are unfamiliar with the names of the saints and their lives, the parish ministers are ready to assist you in selecting an appropriate person.

### **The Liturgy of Baptism:**

The Baptism Liturgy is celebrated here at Seton Parish in two forms: within the celebration of the Mass and outside of the celebration of Mass. The Baptism Liturgy itself, celebrated in either form, is divided into four parts:

- 1) **The Reception of the Child** into the Church and the giving of the name.
- 2) **The Celebration of God's Word** wherein the events of salvation are retold.
- 3) **The Baptismal Rite** which includes the blessing of water, the baptismal promises, the pouring of water, the anointing with Chrism, the clothing with a white garment, and the presentation of the lighted candle.
- 4) **The Concluding Rite** consisting of the final blessing.

As with every liturgical celebration, the full and active participation of all those present is desirable, so that the grace of Baptism in each one of us may be renewed.

### **Minister of the Sacrament:**

It is Christ who presides at the celebration of the Church's sacraments through the Church's ministers – bishops, priests and deacons. Normally, one of the parish priests or deacons will preside at baptismal ceremonies. Priests or deacon relatives or friends are always welcome to preside or assist. You may make arrangements for their participation with one of the clergy of the parish. It is customary, but not required, to offer the clergy \$25.00 for his assistance with the service.

### **Time for Baptism:**

Ordinarily, Baptism is celebrated *within Mass* on the last weekend of the month at the 5:00pm Saturday evening Mass or at the 11:15am Sunday Mass.

Baptism celebrated *outside of Mass* is on the second Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Presently there is no limit to the number of infants.

In keeping with the Church's most ancient practice, Baptisms are not celebrated during the season of Lent.

Special arrangements can be made with the clergy for the possibility of another day or time.

### **Children of Catechetical Age (grades K through 12)**

Children, in this age group either never baptized or baptized in another Christian tradition enter the Church through participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as adapted for children.

Parents of such children should call the parish office to schedule an appointment with the RCIA director.

### **Special Circumstances:**

Occasionally, due to special family circumstances, arrangements can be made for the Baptism of a child from another parish. In such situations, parents are asked to complete the baptism preparation in their home parish and obtain a letter from their pastor giving permission for the baptism to take place here.