



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

BAPTISM PROCEDURES

PLEASE READ PRIOR TO REGISTRATION

For the baptism of an infant it is necessary that there be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion. (canon 868 1. 1)

POLICY

- 1.) Infant baptisms should be celebrated in the parish of the parents.
- 2.) Infant baptisms are celebrated for children who are below ages 7 or 8 and have not yet begun third grade. Children ages 7 or 8 will be interviewed to determine whether they should be baptized through the RCIA process rather than with younger children.
- 3.) All families who choose to have a child baptized at St. Vincent de Paul parish must contact Cathy Duffy, the Baptism Coordinator, to make an interview appointment: phone 714-842-3000 x12 OR email: rcia@svdphb.org. Cathy will handle your registration form at that time.
- 4.) Baptisms in English are usually celebrated during a Sunday 10:00 AM Mass. In Spanish, Baptisms are usually celebrated on the third Saturday of the month.
- 5.) A suggested offering of at least \$50.00 for the ministries of the parish will be received at the baptismal preparation class from the families celebrating baptism in our parish.
NB. Members from other parishes may attend our classes. An offering of \$25.00 will be received at the class from families who attend the class but will celebrate baptism in another parish.

If the following requirements are not met, then the baptism will be delayed and rescheduled.

REGARDING THE PARENTS

- 1.) The parent(s) must either
 - live within the parish boundaries or
 - be registered and actively involved members of the parish prior to arranging the baptism of their child if they live outside the parish boundaries or
 - be non-parishioners who will receive permission from both our pastor and their parish pastor and be willing to contribute \$150.00 towards the ministries of this parish.
- 2.) The parent(s) should be practicing Catholics who will be committed to raising the child in the Catholic faith.
- 3.) If the parents are not validly married in the Catholic Church (married by a Priest in the Catholic Church), this should be discussed with the Baptism Coordinator. [Note: Marriages at *Saint Jude Thaddeus Old World "Catholic" Church* in Huntington Beach or *St. Matthew "Ecumenical Catholic" Church* in Orange are **not valid** since they are not part of the Roman Catholic Church.]
- 4.) The parent(s) must attend the required Baptismal Preparation Class. If they elect to attend a class in another parish, a certificate of attendance must be sent to our Parish Office no later than one week before the Baptism date.

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REGARDING THE GODPARENTS

- 1) Only one Godparent is required, either one male or one female. If there are two Godparents, one must be male and the other female.
- 2) The Godparents must be at least sixteen years old.
- 3) Each Godparent must be a baptized Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith. (canon 874 1.3)
Note: A baptized person from a non-Catholic Christian faith community may be a 'Witness' to the baptism together with one Catholic Godparent, at the parent's request. (canon 874.2) A Witness is a non-Catholic Christian.
- 4) The Godparents must attend Sunday Mass regularly and be practicing Catholics.
- 5) If the Godparent is married, he/she must be validly married in the Roman Catholic Church (and not simply in a civil marriage or 'living together'). [Note: Marriages at *Saint Jude Thaddeus Old World "Catholic" Church* in Huntington Beach or *St. Matthew "Ecumenical Catholic" Church* in Orange are **not valid** since they are not part of the Roman Catholic Church.]
- 6) Each Godparent must complete the "Godparent Form for Baptism," including the certification by their Pastor or Parochial Vicar at the bottom of the form. Forms must be received at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Office at least one week prior to the date of Baptism.
- 7) The Godparents must attend the required Baptismal Preparation Class. If this preparation is attended in another parish, a "proof" of attendance must be received at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Office at least one week prior to the date of Baptism.

NOTE ABOUT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

If the parents of the child are married "outside the Catholic Church" they do not receive Holy Communion since they are not presently living a sacramental life. They remain Catholic and participate in the life of the church and attend Mass [without receiving Holy Communion]. They should contact a priest to have their marriage "blessed" in the Church in the Sacrament of Marriage so that they can begin to receive the Eucharist again.

Godparents must be able to receive Holy Communion at the celebration of Baptism and should go to Confession if necessary.

Date of Baptism: _____

Time of Baptism: _____

Date of Baptism Preparation Class: _____

Time of the Class: _____