

GUIDELINES ON BAPTISM

VERY IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **At least one of the parents must be a baptized Catholic.**
- **Grandparents of the child to be baptized may not arrange the baptism.**
- **Only parents or one of the parents should be interviewed about the requirements for baptism.**
- **Interviews are done in the office, not by telephone. Baptismal Forms are not handed out and are completed by the Parish Secretary.**

We have all these requirements because:

The parents should belong to our parish territorially. They should belong to the parish, support it and adopt it as their family. Please check the map of our parish boundaries on our website or through the office.

Questions:

- ***Where do you live?*** The parents of the child must live within our territorial boundaries, otherwise their child cannot be baptized here. Proof of address will be required (i.e. driver's license). Parents must be registered parishioners to ensure that they belong to our parish and can receive all their pastoral needs. ***Just because the grandparents live in this neighbourhood, or the parent was baptized and received their First Communion and Confirmation here, are not valid reasons to have their child baptized at St John Fisher.***
- If the parents live within our territorial boundaries, we have to make sure that the parents are active in their faith and believe in all the Sacraments (*including Marriage*).
- ***Are you married in the church?*** If you are not, you cannot plan any date for the baptism of your child. You must first make an appointment to speak with the pastor.
- If you are married in the church, please provide your Envelope Number so that we can monitor your attendance. It is important that you are a faithful parishioner who supports our church financially.
- ***Do you come to church regularly? What time?*** This is an honest question and should be answered honestly. An essential part of asking baptism for your child is the regular attendance at mass. It doesn't make sense if the faith that the parents want to pass on to their child is not practiced at all. The parents have to make up their mind to go to church regularly.
- ***Are you registered with us?*** The parents should be registered with us by using the envelopes for the offering. This is the way to support their parish. If the parents are registered and come to church regularly, the secretary can schedule the seminar and date of baptism. If not registered the following questions need to be answered:
- ***How can we be sure that you are attending mass regularly? Registration is the means to monitor their attendance through the use of their envelopes. They should be registered and issued an offertory envelope.*** They can only register their child for baptism ***after two months***. Within this two month period, we will monitor their attendance. If they are faithful in their attendance, only then can we schedule their seminar and assign a date for baptism. If they are not faithful to their attendance, the parish can extend that period until the parish is sure that the parents attend mass regularly.

Sincerely, Fr. Regulo Imperial, *Pastor*