**BASIC PARISH REQUIREMENTS**

**FOR BAPTISM OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Sacrament of Baptism is the initiation into the believing community of Christ’s Body, the Church. It is the beginning of a journey of faith. Baptism is never administered without faith.

A child is baptized through the faith and by request of the parents, with a serious assurance that after baptism the child will be educated and formed in the Catholic Christian life.

Since Baptism is the Sacrament of “belonging”, persons requesting Baptism for their child must:

* Be faithfully attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.

*“We encourage those parents who are presently not registered parish members or actively participating to take advantage of this opportunity to join with our parish community.”*

* Be properly prepared for active participation in the Baptism of their children through the parish Pre-Baptismal Program prior to the celebration of the Rite of Baptism for their first child. **This preparation is a requirement of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and should be arranged for early in the pregnancy by calling the rectory.** The preparation class is only required once.

\*Exceptional cases, especially those involving children ages 2-7, will be discussed with the coordinator in consultation with the Pastor.

\*In the case of children over age 7, and adults seeking membership in the Catholic

Church, the process for initiation into the church is through the RCIA (Rite of Christian

Initiation for Adults and Children).

* Arrange the date for Baptism by calling the Parish Office at 937-498-2307 during regular office hours of 9 am – 4 pm Monday through Thursday (closed noon to 1 pm for lunch).
* All required paperwork must be returned to the parish office for verification and certificate preparation no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled date of Baptism.

**GODPARENTS**

Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.

**The Godparent must be a faithful practicing Catholic** who is thus a fitting model of the Christian life. They must have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist and faithfully attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. **Sponsor eligibility information will be verified with their registered parish.**

You may have only one Godparent, male or female; or there can be two Godparents, one must be male and one female.

Protestants may not be Godparents at the Baptism of a Catholic, but a validly baptized protestant can be admitted and recorded as a witness together with the Catholic Godparent.

*“By God’s gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In His goodness, may He continue to pour out His blessing upon these sons and daughters of His. May He make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of His holy people.”*

* From the Rite of Baptism

A logo of a person and a child

Description automatically generated

**St. Joseph, Pillar of Families**

Holy Angels, Sacred Heart, St. Michael, Ss. Peter and Paul