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A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

+ THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM +

Congratulations on the birth of your child! The parish family of Most Holy Trinity Church extends its warm wishes and prayers as you prepare to have your child Baptized into the Roman Catholic Church. The Priests and Deacons of Most Holy Trinity Church are here to assist you in this process. There are certain requirements surrounding the Sacrament of Baptism that must be followed.

Any practicing Catholic who is a registered member of Most Holy Trinity Parish can have his/her child baptized here. Please note, if you are not registered, you may register as a parishioner by contacting the parish office and completing a registration form. If you have not been attending Mass weekly, we ask that you please begin to do so immediately. The Sacramental Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Hartford state the following concerning the Sacrament of Baptism:

“Prior to Baptism, the priest or deacon must be convinced that there is reasonable hope that a proper religious education will be arranged for the child in the future. There should be a solid founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic Faith, thus, where both parents have been totally neglectful of Mass attendance, it is recommended that the Baptism be postponed.”

Therefore, the Sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated if:

1. There is evidence of regular weekly Mass attendance. If this has not been a practice of the family, they are asked to begin at this time. (With a parish of this size the family use of the envelope system is the easiest indication that the family is attending Mass.)
2. The commitment of the godparents and their practice of the Faith are sufficient enough to assure the Church that the child will be raised in a regular practice of the Faith.

If a lax practice of the Faith has been the norm, then a sincere desire for change is welcomed, but must be visible. It is hoped that this time of grace in your child's life will be an opportunity for conversion and spiritual renewal.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

Parents of children to be Baptized at Most Holy Trinity Parish must attend the **Baptismal Preparation Program**, which is held here at the parish. This is an Archdiocesan requirement for parents having children Baptized in the Catholic Church. We ask the father, mother, and when possible, the godparents to attend this program. The program will consist of an explanation of the Sacrament of Baptism as well as an overview of the Baptismal Ceremony. Your responsibilities as Catholic Parents and raising your child in the Catholic Faith will also be discussed. The program is held the last Wednesday of every month in the church (with the exception of December). Please call the parish office at 203-269-8791 to register for the program. If you have had a child baptized at Most Holy Trinity Church within the last five years, you are exempt from attending the program.

THE ROLE OF THE GODPARENTS

A Godparent/Sponsor:

- A. Must be a practicing Catholic at least 16 year of age.
- B. Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
- C. If married: He/she must be married according to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. *Please read the pink sheet entitled "Guidelines for Choosing Sponsors" from detailed information.*
- D. If not married; must be living a chaste lifestyle.

According to the laws of the Catholic Church, godparents for Baptism must be examples and models of the Faith for the Child. Since the role of the godparent is to assist the parents, this is a serious obligation. Therefore, parents should exercise care in selecting an individual who will act as their child's godparent.

If the sponsor is not a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish he/she must present a **Sponsor Certificate** from the parish at which he/she is registered. Sponsor Certificates are then brought to our parish office as soon as possible.

If the sponsor is a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish, he/she must contact our parish office at 203-269-8791 as soon as possible to complete a Sponsor Request Form.

Church law states that there can be only one (1) Godfather and one (1) Godmother. However, only one is necessary. Therefore if you would like a baptized non-Catholic friend or family member to be part of the ceremony, he or she can act as a Christian Witness taking the place of only **one** of the godparents. An individual from another Christian Faith may only act as witness to the Baptism – *he or she is not a godparent.*

THE CHILD'S NAME

Parents are reminded that in choosing a name for your child, the tradition of the church is to choose a saint's name, thereby, placing your child under the protection of a patron saint. At the very least a child's name is not to be foreign or offensive to Catholic Christian mentality. If unsure, please consult with one of the priest or deacons.

SCHEDULING A DATE FOR BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month at 1:30 P.M.

In order to schedule a date for Baptism, three (3) requirements must be met:

1. You have attended the Pre-Baptism Program on the last Wednesday of the month.
2. You have completed and submitted the Registration Form for Infant Baptism.
3. You have submitted the signed sponsor certificates for Godparents.

A date will not be scheduled for your child's Baptism until these requirements are met. **There is a limit of six (6) that can be baptized on any given Sunday**, so completing the requirements quickly and well in advance will ensure that you can schedule the date you would like before it fills up.

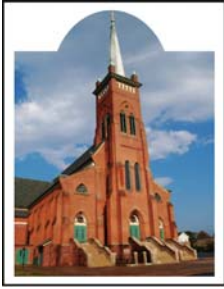
AN OFFERING IN GRATITUDE TO GOD

Although there is no set fee for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, an offering to Most Holy Trinity Church should be considered. A special envelope is provided for this offering. Although an offering is practical in the sense that it helps defray costs, it is also symbolic as it bespeaks a commitment to the Church and your thanksgiving to God. *We need to emphasize that this is an offering to the Parish, not a payment for services rendered to the Priest or Deacon Baptizing your child.*

These guidelines for Baptism at Most Holy Trinity Parish, are based on the guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Hartford and are not meant to be restrictive or punitive. They are meant to ensure us that the Faith will be passed on in a proper and healthy way. Baptism is a commitment to Christ and His Church. We are willing to work with you to help you accomplish what is necessary to create the proper environment for your child's life in the Catholic Faith.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family during this grace filled time.

*Reverend Thomas Jeffrey Walsh, Pastor
Reverend Jorge Castro, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Gene Riotte, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Tullio Ossa, Permanent Deacon*



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A QUICK CHECKLIST

- _____ Family members are registered and active parishioners of Most Holy Trinity Church.

- _____ Attendance at the pre-baptismal program for first time parents or new parents to Most Holy Trinity Parish. Godparents are encouraged to attend. The pre-baptism program is held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Please register at the parish office.

- _____ Godparents have obtained a sponsor certificate from the parish they attend and forwarded it to the parents.

- _____ Parents have completed a Registration Form for Infant Baptism and have returned it to the parish office along with the sponsor certificates from the Godparents.

- _____ Notify the parish office of the intended date of the baptism. Baptisms are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:30 P.M.