

Baptism Information

St. Bernard performs Baptisms in English on the 1st Sunday of the month and, in Spanish, the 3rd Sunday of the month. Registration is necessary prior to the Baptism. We kindly ask for a donation of \$100.00 for Baptisms.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY BAPTISM CLASS OR BAPTISM DATE ARE GIVEN:

- □ <u>BIRTH CERTIFICATE: is needed for each child that will be baptized.</u> If the child is 7 years or older, they must take Religious Education Classes (CCD) which include Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.
- PARENTS (OR LEGAL GUARDIANS) NEED TO LIVE WITHIN OUR PARISH BOUNDARIES. If Parents (or legal guardians) live outside of our Parish boundaries, they need to get a letter of permission from their church, plus all the required paper work.

PERMISSION FROM BOTH PARENTS (OR LEGAL GUARDIANS)

- o Both parents (or legal guardians) should be Catholic. If not, a letter from the parent who is not Catholic is needed stating they are giving permission to have their child baptized in the Catholic Faith. The letter must be notarized.
- o An official and/or legal document, from the Court, is required if parents are divorced or separated and if only one has custody of the child.
- o If both parents share custody of the child, and one of them will not be present at Baptism, a notarized letter should be provided giving permission for the child to be baptized.
- o Legal guardian(s) need to present an official and/or legal document from the Court, showing they have full custody of the child to be baptized.

GODPARENTS (OR SPONSOR) CERTIFICATE LETTER FROM THEIR PARISH.

- o Godparents must be over the age of 16.
- o Both godparents (or sponsors), must have received Baptism, Holy Communion & Confirmation and must be a practicing catholic. If not, one should be a confirmed practicing Catholic and the other can be Christian, but cannot be a Mormon, Jehovah Witness or Atheist. In this case, the full responsibility goes to the Catholic godparent (sponsor). The other Christian will only be a witness, with no responsibilities.
- o If godparents are married, it must have been in the Catholic Church not only civilly.
- PRE-BAPTISM CLASS CERTIFICATE: All parents (or legal guardians) and godparents (or sponsors) must attend a preparation class (Pre-Baptism Class). This is a requirement and, we offer this class every 1st Tuesday of the month, at 7pm, at the Parish Center. Please call the Parish Office (954-741-7800) to let them know when you and/or your group will be attending the class. Everyone attending the class must bring a picture ID. The name on the Baptismal Certificate will be the same name reflected on the ID. If you or anyone in your group cannot attend any of our classes, you may take the class at any Catholic Parish. The Original Class Attendance Certificate must be presented to our office at least a week prior to the Baptism. The Parish seal needs to be on the Certificate of Attendance.