

St. Rita Church
7100 Jefferson Highway
Harahan, Louisiana 70123-4998
504-737-2915

GUIDELINES FOR INFANT BAPTISM

1. For an infant to be baptized lawfully it is required: that the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; That there be a founded hope that the child will be brought up in the catholic religion. (Can. 868)

Parental Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism **must be completed by the parents.**

2. The parents must attend a Baptismal Seminar prior to the actual Baptism, unless they have already attended one for another child within the last five (5) years. Baptismal Seminars are usually held the first Thursday of the month at **7:00pm** at the Rectory, which is located at 160 Imperial Woods Drive. Godparents that have not completed a Baptism Seminar (within five (5) years) are also required to attend. Please call the office to reserve a spot. Parking is available across the street from the rectory in the parish parking lot. Please knock on the door to the Rectory when you arrive; the Baptismal Seminar lasts approximately one hour.
3. A **copy** of the child's **Birth Certificate** must be presented. If the parents of the child are **not** married, the father's name will **not** be placed on the Baptismal Certificate **unless** it appears on the Birth Certificate. The hospital document will not suffice.
4. SPONSORS (Godparents): It is not absolutely necessary to have two Godparents. You may have a Godfather only or a Godmother only, but in no case is there to be two Godparents from the same gender. To be admitted to the role of Godparent, a person must:
 - A. Be a Catholic in good standing with the Church (Not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared) who has been **Confirmed** and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith.
 - B. Be at least **16** years old.
 - C. If married, the Godparent must be in a marriage recognized as **valid** by the Catholic Church. Persons may not be cohabitating, or living together without marriage.
 - D. Not the parent of the child being baptized.

Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism **must be completed by each godparent.**

5. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated **following the 11:30am** mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The family should attend the 11:30am mass to make sure that they are on time for the ceremony. Parents that do not reside in our territorial boundaries, but wish to baptize their child in St. Rita Parish, must request permission from their territorial parish pastor. Once permission has been obtained, a letter granting such permission must be mailed or faxed to us from that Pastor. (Fax # 504-737-2921)
6. It is customary to give a donation to the Church for the Sacrament of Baptism. This donation goes to the Church, not the minister of the sacrament.
7. If the parents are residing in the parish and are not registered, we request that they register with the church by calling the office or filling out a registration form in the back of church.