

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

7809 46<sup>th</sup> Way North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

727-541-4447

[www.sacredheartpinellaspark.com](http://www.sacredheartpinellaspark.com)

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## Baptism Information

Dear Parent,

*Thanks so much for your interest in having your child baptized here at Sacred Heart! Baptism is the first of the Church's sacraments. By being baptized, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ. The Apostle Paul expressed it this way, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body (1 Cor. 12:12-13a). So, having your child baptized is amazingly important!*

*Baptism can also be a meaningful experience for you as parents or guardians – something more than just a gathering of family members. We hope that the preparation class you attend and the few additional things that need to be done will help make the baptism of your child a significant moment in their life and yours.*

*What follows are the instructions you'll need to arrange the baptism. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to the celebration of this sacrament with you.*

*In Christ,*

*Fr. Kevin*

## Necessary forms and paperwork

### Baptism Registration Form

Please fill in the Baptism Registration Form that is attached. This gives us the information we need to record the sacrament in the parish records. If you are not already registered here at Sacred Heart, and would like to do so, you can complete the second half of the form. We will happily welcome you to our parish family!

An additional (and important) note about parish registration: If you live within the boundaries of our parish you do not need to formally register to have your child baptized. We would very much like you to register, but we leave that choice to you. If, on the other hand, you live closer to another parish, you should request baptism there. Families that live outside our boundaries should only request baptism for their child at Sacred Heart if they have been registered and attending our parish for some time.

### Permission to Baptize the Child in the Catholic Faith

We need permission of both parents (or guardians) to baptize the child but realize that this is complicated by divorce and other custody situations. If both parents will be not at the baptism, we can assess your circumstances and decide how best to proceed. In some cases, we'll need additional information.

### Birth Certificate

We are required by our Diocese to have a copy of the child's birth certificate.

## **Godparent Certification**

Culturally, godparents are often picked because of family connections or as a way of honoring the person chosen. The Church, however, requires that at least one godparent be a Catholic, who has received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, is striving to live out their faith, and is willing to assist the parents / guardians in passing on the Catholic faith to the child. The Church recognizes and allows one male and one female godparent for each child. A godparent and a “Christian Witness” – a person who practices another Christian tradition – is also acceptable. Godparents must complete the attached form in which they attest that they meet the Church’s requirements and promise to fulfill the role of a godparent.

## **Baptism Preparation Class**

Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to the baptism. These are generally offered once each month and can be provided via an online meeting app. The class will help you deepen your understanding of the sacrament as well as review what you’ll need to do on the day of the baptism. The parish staff can give you the dates for the next few months.

## **Godparent Preparation Class**

Godparents must attend a special preparation class prior to the baptism that will help them fulfill their role. These are also generally offered once each month and can be provided via an online meeting app. The parish staff can give you the dates for the next few months. Godparents who do not live nearby may instead take a similar class offered at another parish and submit to us a letter or certificate from that parish.

## **Schedule the Baptism**

The following paperwork must be received and classes scheduled **before** scheduling a Baptism date:

- Baptismal Registration form

- Copy of birth certificate – can be emailed to [sacredfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:sacredfaithformation@gmail.com)

- Godparent Sponsor form(s)

- Parent and Godparent class scheduled

## **Fee**

There is no fee for the baptism. However, we’ve attached an offertory envelope in the hopes that you’ll want to assist the parish in its many ministries. Each day we offer the sacraments at the parish, in hospitals, and in homes. And, in keeping with Jesus’ commands, we assist the needy in our community, our diocese, and the world. None of this would be possible without the support of many. Please know that any gift of thanksgiving you provide will be greatly appreciated.

## **Finally,**

Please understand that, under no circumstances, can we administer the sacrament unless the paperwork listed above has been submitted and the parents and godparents have attended their respective sacramental preparation class.

## **Questions?**

Please direct any questions you may have to a member of the parish staff. They’ll be happy to assist you.

May God bless you and your family!





SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
(727) 541-4447 - Email: sacredfaithformation@gmail.com

## BAPTISMAL REGISTRATION

### I. CHILD'S INFORMATION AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Child's Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth (City & State): \_\_\_\_\_

Was this child adopted: ☐ Yes ☐ No Was this child privately Baptized: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide a copy of your child's birth certificate. Copy of Birth Certificate is attached ☐ Yes ☐ No

Contact Person ☐ Mother ☐ Father Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Communication Method: ☐ Phone ☐ Email

### II. FATHER / GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child named above to be Baptized in the Catholic faith. In addition, I certify that I know of no court order or other legal restriction that would prevent his/her Baptism.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. MOTHER / GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child named above to be Baptized in the Catholic faith. In addition, I certify that I know of no court order or other legal restriction that would prevent his/her Baptism.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. GODPARENT INFORMATION

#### GODFATHER:

NAME: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Godfather's Religion: ☐ Catholic ☐ Another Christian Denomination ☐ None

If Catholic, current parish (Name and City): \_\_\_\_\_

#### GODMOTHER:

NAME: First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Godmother's Religion: ☐ Catholic ☐ Another Christian Denomination ☐ None

If Catholic, current parish (Name and City): \_\_\_\_\_

**V. FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

☐ Copy of birth certificate submitted

☐ Parent class attended: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Godparent class attended: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Godfather—Statement of Godparent Form submitted

☐ Godmother—Statement of Godparent Form submitted

☐ Date Requested for Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

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## Statement of the godparent

I \_\_\_\_\_ have been asked by \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name) (name of parent / guardian)

to serve as a godparent for \_\_\_\_\_ who will be baptized at Sacred Heart  
(name of child)  
Catholic Church on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(date)

In accepting this responsibility, I understand that I must meet certain requirements set forth in Canon Law (Canon 874.1) and, to establish my eligibility, I will answer the questions that follow truthfully. *(If you are unable to answer these questions as required, please consider withdrawing as a godparent or, if helpful, speak with a priest of our parish.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Have you been asked by the parent(s) to be a godparent for this child? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you 16 years of age or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you the mother or father of the child to be baptized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Eucharist? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you bound by any canonical penalty? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*If you are under a canonical penalty, you'd likely be aware of it. Church penalties are invoked against those who commit heresy (c 1364), publicly "excites hatred or contempt against religion or the Church" (c 1369), teach "a doctrine condemned by the Roman Pontiff or an ecumenical council" (c 1371), misuse or desecrate the Eucharist (c 1367), and other similar, serious acts.*

Do you promise to assist the parent(s) in training the child "in the practice of the faith", teaching them to "keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor?" ☐ Yes ☐ No  
*(This is the promise you will make at the baptism.)*

(Over)

Do you lead a life of faith in keeping with the duties of a godparent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*This is critically important. You can't help the parents raise the child in the Catholic faith if you are not practicing it yourself. So, in order to be a godparent you must be attending Mass weekly, have a regular prayer practice, in some way give of your time, talent, and treasure to help others, regularly participate in the sacrament of confession, and, if married, your marriage must be in keeping with Church Law (witnessed by a priest and celebrated in a Catholic Church) or, if not married, you cannot be in a relationship wherein you are living together without marriage.*



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