

# 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. We ask each of the Catholic godparents for a letter from their parish stating that they are a member of that parish and eligible to be a godparent. If a Christian Witness, they will need to complete a Christian Witness Form.

## **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 and 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.



**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**

(727) 541-4447 - Email: [sacredfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto: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

Who does child live with:  Both Parents  Mom  Father

Will both parents participate and be present at the Baptism?  Yes  No

If both parents WILL NOT be present, please explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. MOTHER / GUARDIAN'S 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—If Catholic, letter from the Church he attends. If Christian Witness, completed Christian Witness form.
- Godmother—If Catholic, letter from the Church he attends. If Christian Witness, completed Christian Witness form.
- Date Requested for Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

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