

**PARENTS' GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISMS DURING MASS
AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

1. The Baptism Host (a volunteer parishioner) will call you during the week before the Baptism. Please tell the Host at that time how many guests you will be expecting at the Mass, so that seats can be reserved for them. **The Host will be with you during the entire Mass and Baptism.**
2. **IMMERSIONS ONLY:** Please bring your baby to church in clothes that can be removed easily, not the christening gown. The christening gown/clothes and diaper bag should be left in the usher's room before Mass begins. During the Homily, the baby is undressed (except for diaper), and is wrapped in a towel, **which you bring to church. (Bring two towels, just in case of "accidents".)** Just before you leave your pew to go to the Baptismal Pool, unfasten the baby's diaper and leave it on keeping him/her wrapped in the towel. You, your baby, siblings, the godparents, family and friends will all follow the Host's directions to move to the Baptismal Pool in the back of the church. At the Baptismal Pool, the mother or father will lower and hold the baby in the water up to the shoulders in a reclining position for Baptism. (Short sleeves advised.) When the Priest is finished, the baby is lifted out of the water and wrapped in a towel. The baptismal party will process to the front of the church. The guests will process first and return to their seats, followed by the godparents, parents with child, and the presider. All will take their seats, except the parents and the presider, who will remain at the steps of the sanctuary where they will present the child for all to see. The Host will then lead you down the side aisle to the usher's room, where you will dress your baby quickly. You must be back before the Consecration. The Host will then lead you back up the side aisle to take your seats.
3. **POURINGS ONLY:** After the Priest blesses the water, the Host will direct you, your baby, siblings, the godparents, family and friends to move to the Baptismal Pool. You will hold the baby's head over the water for Baptism. After the Baptism by water, the baptismal party will process to the front of the church. The guests will process first and return to their seats, followed by the godparents, parents with child, and the presider. All will take their seats, except the parents and the presider, who will remain at the steps of the sanctuary where they will present the child for all to see.
4. **ALL BAPTISMS:** After Communion, the Priest will invite you, your baby, siblings and the godparents up to the sanctuary for the anointing of the holy chrism and the lighting of the baptismal candle. The Host will direct you to your places. (NOTE: Your family and friends remain seated with the rest of the congregation.) After the anointing, the Priest will begin the prayer for the lighting of the baptismal candle. The Host will direct the godparent to light the baptismal candle from the Paschal Candle. The Priest will then bless the baby, parents, any siblings, and the congregation.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

1. **BE AT CHURCH AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE MASS.**
2. **THE BABY'S SIBLINGS ARE INVITED TO STAY WITH YOU DURING THE MASS, THE BAPTISM, AND THE ANOINTING.**