



Peter declared, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children”. (Acts 2: 38-39)

Dear Parent:

We welcome you and your family to Holy Spirit Catholic Church for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please take the opportunity to carefully read our guidelines in order to facilitate your celebration.

The Sacrament of Baptism is birth into new life in Christ. It is the basis of our Christian life and the foundation of the Sacramental life of the Church. In this Sacrament, we are cleansed of our sins, reborn and re-created of water and the Holy Spirit and incorporated into the Body of Christ. We live out the promise we make at our baptism by regularly practicing our faith.

The public ministry of Jesus began with His baptism on the shore of the Jordan River. It ended with Jesus commanding the Apostles to “*go and make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He had commanded them*”. Mt. 28: 19-20. These words of Jesus from Sacred Scripture teach us the great importance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Sacrament of Baptism has been a constant practice of the Roman Catholic Church from the earliest of times.

Yours in Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Fr. Brandon Moravitz, Pastor
Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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- **PARENTS ARE ASKED TO REGISTER** at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.
 - **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** First and second time parents must attend a baptism meeting/class with either Fr. Brandon Moravitz or Deacon Dan Schultz prior to the Baptism. Please contact the Parish Office to set up the meeting before setting a baptism date (218) 741-6344.
 - **SELECTING GODPARENTS:** Godparents play a very important role in your child’s spiritual life. They serve as role models of faith. This will help enable the child to look to their godparents as an example of how the Church teaches us to live our Catholic faith. Godparents support not only the child, but you the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparents, they represent the larger Church community. Being a godparent is not only an honor, it is a tremendous responsibility. As godparents, they need to be carefully chosen.

- **THE CHURCH REQUIREMENTS FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GODPARENTS ARE:**
 1. **A child must have** one practicing Roman Catholic godparent in good standing with the Church. This Catholic godparent must:
 - a. Be at least 17 years old and be mature enough to understand, accept and carry out the duties of a godparent.
 - b. Must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
 - c. If married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage.
 2. **Each child must have at least one**, but may have two godparents or sponsors, one male and one female.
 3. **A godparent must be living an exemplary life** consistent with the faith and morals as taught by the Roman Catholic Church.
 4. **A non-Catholic, baptized Christian** may be chosen as a Christian witness (but not as a godparent or sponsor), as long as the godparent is Catholic.
 5. **If both are Catholic**, both must meet all the criteria for a Catholic godparent as described above.
 6. **There may be no more than two godparents.**
 7. **Godparents may be represented by proxies if they are unable to be present for the ceremony. Those serving as proxies must fulfill the same requirements as godparents.**
- **SCHEDULING A BAPTISM:** Baptisms should be scheduled at least a month prior to the proposed Baptism date and can be done through the parish office. These arrangements should be made for Baptism before family plans are made. A baptism cannot take place until all the required forms are received in the parish office.
- **BAPTISM RECORD AND CERTIFICATE:** The Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of the parish in which the Baptism takes place. Therefore, please be sure of the accuracy of information and the spelling of names. A Baptismal certificate will be given to you following the Baptism. Later, whenever a certificate might be needed, it can be prepared from the parish records.
- **NAMING YOUR CHILD:** The name you select in addition to your family name will provide your child a unique identity. The long standing tradition of the Church has been to give at least one name of a saint or person from our Biblical tradition. A Christian name will provide your child with a model for Christ-centered living.
- **CLOTHING, CANDLES AND BAPTISMAL WATER:** A white Christening gown is customary, but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's chest. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for baptism. The parish will provide a white Baptismal bib and a decorated Baptismal candle. After the ceremony they will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous occasion. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future.
- **PICTURES AT THE BAPTISM:** Photographs and videos are encouraged at the Baptism ceremony. These are excellent ways of sharing the memory of this joyous and special day. Please be sure to follow the instructions of the celebrant to insure that you will be getting the best pictures and not interfering with the ceremony. The celebrant is usually more than happy to stay for pictures with your family after the Baptism.
- **FAMILY DONATION:** There is no fee, however many families wish to offer a donation on the occasion of their child's Baptism.

RECORD OF BAPTISM

Baptism Class Dates: (1) _____ (2) _____

CLASS PRESENTER: _____

→ PARENTS MUST ATTEND CLASSES FOR FIRST 2 CHILDREN, OR THEY MUST ATTEND AGAIN IF IT HAS BEEN 5 YEARS OR MORE SINCE LAST TIME THEY ATTENDED, EVEN IF THIS IS MORE THAN 2ND CHILD. ←

Child's Info:

Name of Child _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____ Place of Birth: _____

If not born, expected date of birth: _____

Was child privately baptized for any reason? _____

Parent's Info:

Father's Name: _____ Catholic? _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Mother's MAIDEN Name: _____ Catholic? _____
(Last - Maiden) (First) (Middle)

ARE YOU MARRIED? Yes No WERE YOU MARRIED IN A CHURCH? Yes No

WHICH CHURCH OR PLACE WERE YOU MARRIED? _____

Home Address: _____
Street City, State, Zip

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH? Yes No

Godfather's Name: _____ Catholic? _____

Godmother's Name: _____ Catholic? _____

Requested DATE of Baptism: _____

Clergy Administering the Sacrament of Baptism

Clergy Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date Baptized: _____

Office Use:

Certificate Issued: _____

Bulletin: _____

CDM Update: _____

Recorded: _____

NOTE: Godparents must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic at least 17 yrs. of age. Only a non-Catholic Christian can be listed as a witness.

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION-GODPARENT/SPONSOR FORM

Name of Child to be Baptized / Confirmation Candidate

To be completed by the Godparent/Sponsor: *(Please type or print clearly)*

Name of Godparent/Sponsor _____

Address: _____
Street City State

Telephone: _____

“I understand the responsibility I am undertaking and I have both the desire and the intention to fulfill it. I affirm that I was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church and, if married, I affirm my marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church.”

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed form 1 week prior to Baptism to: Holy Spirit Catholic Church
306 2nd Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Qualifications to be a Godparent/Sponsor

The Church has established the following norms in Church (Canon) law concerning the qualifications to serve as a Godparent/ Sponsor:

A Godparent/Sponsor:

- Together with the parents, presents an infant for baptism or assists an adult in Christian initiation
- Helps the baptized to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism/confirmation
- Helps the baptized to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in baptism/confirmation (canon 872)

The sponsor must:

- Be at least seventeen (17) years old
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and who leads a life of faith
- Not be bound by canonical penalty
- Not be the father or mother of one to be baptized/confirmed (canon 874)
- If married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church

In regard to the number of Godparent/Sponsors, there may be:

- One (1) male Godparent/Sponsor for baptism/confirmation or
- One (1) female Godparent/Sponsor for baptism/confirmation or
- One (1) male and one (1) female Godparent/Sponsor for baptism (canons 873 and 892)

Additional persons may participate as a witness of the baptism. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism (canon 874, 2).

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