



# A Call to celebrate.....BAPTISM

St. John the Baptist, St. Francis Xavier, St. Mary, St. Robert Bellarmine

## Parish Policy

With a long tradition in the Catholic Church, the Baptism of infants is an expression of parents' commitment to the faith, as well as a sign of God's love and care for the child. Celebration of the sacrament provides an opportunity for family, loved ones, and members of the community to welcome the child into the Christian community.

The following guidelines are intended to help parents preparing to start a family, as well as parents who already have a child they wish to have baptized, understand our four parish commitment to assist parents in the passing on of our Catholic Faith Tradition and what is required in order for their child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

### Guidelines

- From the very beginning of Christianity, the Church has depended on its members to support each other in faith, passing on the rites and traditions of our religion. The Church does not exist without the assembly gathered in praise and worship of God. The Church holds this so important that it requires all to be active members of their faith community in order to receive the Church's sacraments. Please note the following:

Active participation in the faith community by the Catholic parent or parents is a Requisite for the Baptism of a child. Please note that the *Rite of Baptism (no. 3)* states: "In the complete absence of any well-founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion, the baptism is to be delayed, ...and the parents informed of the reasons."

- Those wishing to have their child baptized must attend a baptismal preparation retreat, which consists of a Friday evening session and a Saturday morning session. **Retreats will be offered on a quarterly basis. Please plan ahead!**
- After completing the retreat, parents may work with the parish to set a date for their child's Baptism.
- Because we, as the Catholic Church, believe that the child is being baptized into a faith community, the Sunday assembly's role in witnessing the sacrament is vitally important. **Baptism will ordinarily be celebrated during a weekend liturgy.**
- Parents are encouraged, but not required, to observe the tradition of conferring on their child the name of a saint who may serve as a patron and model for the child.



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## **Quad-Parish Baptismal Preparation Retreat**

*(Required for all parents planning on having their child baptized.*

*See reverse side for baptismal policy)*

### **2008-2009 Dates**

Parents must choose **one** weekend.

Friday      October 10th      6:00-9:00pm  
Saturday    October 11th      9:00-12:00pm  
*St. John the Baptist Church Hall*

Friday      January 16th      6:00-9:00pm  
Saturday    January 17th      9:00-12:00pm  
*St. John the Baptist Church Hall*

Friday      April 24th      6:00-9:00pm  
Saturday    April 25th      9:00-12:00pm  
*St. John the Baptist Church Hall*

Friday      July 17th      6:00-9:00pm  
Saturday    July 18th      9:00-12:00pm  
*St. John the Baptist Church Hall*

**Fee: \$25.00** *(Checks payable to St. Robert Bellarmine)*

### **For more information please call:**

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