



St. Michael's Catholic Church

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Aloha Parents and Godparents:

Baptism is a very important first step in welcoming your new baby into the Catholic Church. At St. Michael's Parish we have **one** Baptism class that must be attended by parents and godparents to prepare you for your child's Baptism. (**Please note: If you miss the class, you must wait until the next Baptism class to have your baby baptized.*)

Enclosed is a Baptism form that must be filled out completely and returned to the parish office. The information from this sheet will be used for the Baptismal Certificate. At least **one** godparent must be Catholic, and if the other godparent is not Catholic, then he/she must be a Christian witness. (**See: "Choosing Godparents" guide attached.*)

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTS:

1. Fill out the Baptism form and return it to the parish office.
2. Attend the Baptism class as listed below:
(Date) _____, at 12:15pm – Kamiano Hall
3. Baptism Weekend:
Saturday or Sunday, _____, during the Mass the family usually attends.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS:

1. Attend the Baptism class as listed above.
2. If a godparent is from another parish, we must have proof that they have attended Baptism class in their own parish, and confirmation from their parish priest that they can stand as godparents. A letter from their parish priest is sufficient proof, and must be received *before* the Baptism takes place.

If you should have any questions, please call Susan at 326-7771.

Mahalo and God bless you!

Fr. Lio Faletoi

Enclosures

Priest/Deacon: _____

____ Certificate made
____ Entered in Register

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Baptism Registration Form**

Date of Baptism: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Child's Full Name: _____ M/F

City/State of Birth: _____ Birthdate: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name: _____

Religion of Father: _____ Religion of Mother: _____

Address of Parents: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parents are: _____ Married _____ Single _____ Divorced

Godfather: _____ Religion: _____

Godmother: _____ Religion: _____

WITNESSES: Non-Catholic sponsors, or Catholic sponsors who are not active members of the Church, or who are not Confirmed or who are requested as Witnesses in addition to the above two main sponsors.

Name: _____ Religion: _____

Name: _____ Religion: _____

Name: _____ Religion: _____

Name: _____ Religion: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Qualifications for Godparents

1. Must be registered in a Catholic Parish, attend Mass weekly and receive the Sacraments.
2. Must have received the three (3) Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
3. Those Catholics who have joined another religion may not act as Godparents.
4. Must have completed their sixteenth (16th) year and cannot be the father or mother of the one receiving the Sacrament.
5. If married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church and valid according to the Code of Canon Law.
6. For Baptism, two sponsors are suggested: one of each sex; however, only one sponsor is required.

Qualifications for Christian Witness

1. A Christian of another tradition may substitute as a Christian Witness for a Catholic Godparent if he/she is a member of a Christian Church and worships regularly.
2. Non-practicing Catholics may not act as sponsors.
3. Members of those churches which do not believe in the Trinity and/or the Divinity of Jesus Christ may not act as a Christian Witness.

Godparent/Godchild Roles

A Unique Bond:

When you received the Sacrament of Baptism, some very special people accepted an important responsibility. Whether you received your Baptism as an infant or as an adult, the choice of Godparents should not have been made lightly. Your Godparents committed themselves to playing an important role in your life. Perhaps now, as an adult, you have been asked to assume the role of Godparent in a young person's life.

In our Catholic faith, the relationship between a Godparent and Godchild offers unique challenges and opportunities. As a Godparent you are charged with encouraging a young person in the development of his or her Catholic faith. Your support, example, and mentorship can be a very special part of your Godchild's life. However, as with parenthood, there is no "how to" manual to tell you how to truly be a Godparent. It is up to you to determine how best to develop and nurture that relationship.

How Do I Baptize My Child?

Congratulations! The Sacrament of Baptism is a great gift that Catholic parents bestow on their children. It is the first of the *Sacraments of Initiation* (Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation).

To baptize a baby, the parents should be registered and/or geographical parishioners of the parish. This means you have developed a relationship with your parish that you can share with your child as he or she grows up.

Contact the Parish Office during business hours to sign up for the next available Baptism Preparation Classes (2). Both parents and Godparents must complete the classes prior to setting the date for the actual Baptism of your child.

If the child is school age, then he/she is old enough to go through a preparation to understand what Baptism is. You may do this by enrolling him/her in the Religious Education (RE) Program.

Choosing Godparents

Choosing the Godparents of your child is a decision that should be done with care. You are asking someone to take on a life-long responsibility to a key person in your child's life. The Catholic Church provides these basic requirements for the eligibility of Godparents:

*You must choose at least 1 Godparent, although most parents choose two.

*At least 1 Godparent must be *Catholic*, having received all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion). If your second Godparent is not Catholic, they must have been baptized in a *Christian* faith. (They cannot be Buddhist, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, Jewish, etc.)

*A mature person (over the age of 16) able to understand and accept the responsibility.

*Parents cannot be Godparents to their own children.

The rest is up to you. It is recommended you choose people who will serve as good examples to your child. People whose values are like yours. The role of Godparent is more than showing up at a ceremony. These are people whom you hope will develop a special bond with your child. Discuss it among yourselves, and ask the Lord for guidance. Best wishes and God bless!