

## BAPTISM GUIDELINES

Below are directives for having a child baptized at Holy Redeemer. There have been changes concerning the age at which a child may be baptized without additional sacramental preparation. Please review the baptismal requirements below.

1. **If the child has not completed his seventh year of age he is considered an infant for baptism.** If the child has completed seven years of life he is considered a minor by church law and he/she will be required to attend a two year program. The program begins each September. In such cases please contact the pastor.
2. If the parents of the child are not married, the child may still be baptized.
3. Parents seeking baptism for their child are required to have preparation before the baptism. The pastor will supply the parents with a DVD entitled "*Your Baby's Baptism*," and a booklet, "*Preparing Your Child for Baptism*." The DVD is to be returned to the pastor at the time of baptism.
4. Godparents are required to read the booklet, "*Godparenting—the Role of Baptismal Sponsor*". The Church requires only one godparent. To serve as a godparent the following qualifications must be met:
  - A. Must be at least sixteen years old.
  - B. If married the couple must be married by the Church.
  - C. The godparent(s) must have received the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
  - D. The godparent(s) must be practicing their faith; that is, they are able to receive the sacraments.
  - E. A non-Catholic may not serve as godparent. He/she may be a witness, but not a godparent.
  - F. If there are two godparents, only one must be a practicing Catholic able to receive the sacraments. The other will be considered a witness.
5. After the parents have viewed the DVD and read the booklet, they are to contact the pastor to set a date for the child's baptism. The pastor will supply the parents with a *Baptism Information Record* which the parents shall complete and return to the pastor prior to the date of Baptism.
6. If the parents live in the Clarksville area but are not registered with Holy Redeemer they will be asked to complete a registration form for the parish. (A registration form is printed on the back of the *Baptism Information Record*.) If they are registered with another parish registration with Holy Redeemer is not necessary. The information will be retained in the Religious Education Office and used to register the child for Religious Education Classes when the child begins first grade.
7. A monetary donation will be accepted.