

# *Infant Baptism*

The day of Baptism is a day to celebrate! For our children, baptism is the “day the Lord has made,” a day of new life and grace, a day of sharing in the life of Jesus, our Brother and our God. For parents, godparents and family, it is a day of pride, a day of happiness for each other as well as for our new family member. For the Christian Community, it is a day of promise and of faith, a day to celebrate our Christian heritage. Infant Baptism is a celebration of our adult faith.

For that reason it is good for us to spend some time before the day of Baptism preparing for the celebration. We do that in many ways: by sending invitations to close family friends, by preparing for a party the day of the Baptism, and by making ourselves ready to accept the responsibility of raising our child in the faith.

Parents and Godparents are their children’s first and best teacher. Our children model our behaviors—both good and bad. They accept what they see us do without question. Therefore we must enter into Baptism with the knowledge that this is a life-changing event for us as well as a soul-changing event for our child. To prepare us for the realities of Baptism, parents and godparents must attend a day of reflection prior to the baptism.

Evenings of Reflection are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM and are held in Meeting Room South. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and are restricted to members of Risen Savior Catholic Community or for those who are serving as Godparents to a child being baptized at Risen Savior. Please call the parish office at 821-1571 to reserve your place.

Baptisms are scheduled most Sundays of each month. There are some exceptions, please call Barbara at 821-1571 ext. 302 for the upcoming Sundays when we will not be baptizing. You may arrange to have your child baptized by visiting the parish office. Baptisms cannot be arranged over the telephone.

**I’m not a member of Risen Savior but would like to have my child baptized there.**

As baptism makes one a member of the Christian community, it is best that the child be baptized at the parish where the parents attend and are members. However, many people want their child baptized at the parish where they grew up or where their parents are members. Please call and discuss this with the parish.

**My parish won’t baptize my child; can I have my child baptized at Risen Savior?**

If your parish where you are known won’t baptize your child, there must be a serious issue that the pastor wants you to address. We are willing to discuss baptizing your child at Risen Savior if you bring a letter from your pastor outlining his concerns and granting you permission to baptize outside of your parish. Only with this information will we be able to make any decisions.

**Do the parents of the child have to be married?**

Each case will be examined individually.

**Must both Godparents be Catholic?**

Canon Law states that the infant must have at least one Godparent and that Godparent must be Catholic. A non-Catholic cannot be a Godparent as they cannot witness to the Catholic faith throughout their lives.

**Are there any restrictions on who can serve as a Godparent?**

Godparents must be Confirmed, over the age of 18 and actively practicing their faith. If married they must be in a canonically recognized marriage. If not married they must not be in a cohabitational relationship.

**How does a person prove they are active in their faith?**

Catholics are called to be members of and support the parish in whose boundaries they live, they can get a letter from their parish stating they are known members and granting them permission to serve in the role of Godparent.