

# Baptism

Congratulations on the birth of your child and on your decision to have your child baptized. St. Pius X Parish is here to support you in that decision.

## **What is Baptism?**

Baptism is a miracle of faith in which a child receives sanctifying grace to live in this world as a faithful Christian. Through this Sacrament, the child is welcomed into the Christian community. The child therefore gains a sense of belonging to God's family and is embraced by God's unconditional love.

## **What are the parents' responsibilities?**

The nurturing and education of our children requires great care and total commitment from the parents. This same care and attention must be given to all aspects of the child's growth and development. You, as the child's parents, are the primary caregivers and first teachers of faith. To fulfill this responsibility and commitment, parents guide the child by Christian example. Parents should develop a personal relationship with God, nurtured by a healthy prayer life and regular Mass attendance.

## **What is the role of a Godparent?**

Whether choosing one or two Godparents, please keep in mind that they must be fully initiated in the Roman Catholic Church through the reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. They must be practicing members of the Catholic Church who are at least 16 years old. If they are married, they must be validly married in the Catholic Church, that is, not in a common law relationship or married outside the Catholic Church.

You may have one or two Godparents. If you choose two, one must be male and the other female. Their role is to assist parents in the Christian formation of the child, helping to nurture this "tiny seed of faith" within the child.

You will find a document to help you at the "Role of Godparent Info Sheet" button below.

## **Who can bring their child to be baptized at St. Pius X Parish?**

Although we will not refuse to give baptism, the Archdiocese asks that we limit them to families who live within the boundaries of the Parish. Our boundaries can be found outlined here: <https://stpiusx.archtoronto.org/en/contact-us/parish-information/>. By requesting baptism, you will become a registered parishioner. If you are not already a member, please fill out the Parish Registration form at <https://saintpiusx.ca> under the "Welcome" tab. Besides the Registration Form, you will also find below two copies of "Examining My Faith", one for each parent. We ask each of you to take some private time to complete the form and then discuss your responses at home.

## PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

- 1 Complete Forms a, b and c and email them to our Office at [office@saintpiusx.ca](mailto:office@saintpiusx.ca).**
- 2 Call the Office during office hours to set up an appointment with the Pastor.**
- 3 Bring with you, completed and printed:**
  - a. Baptism Registration Form.
  - b. “Examining My Faith” form for each parent.
  - c. Can We Talk About Marriage?
  - d. Child’s long form birth certificate.
  - e. Baptism certificate of one of the parents, updated within the last six months.
  - f. Confirmation certificate for each Godparent, obtainable through an updated baptism certificate, issued within the last six months.
  - g. New Parishioner Registration.
  - h. Custody papers for the child if applicable.

Jesus wants us to be connected to His community. As a member, we hope that the Holy Spirit moves you to become actively involved in the life of the parish. This includes prayer, participation at Sunday Mass, joining our Ministries as volunteers, attending special events, and financial support of our parish.

We look forward to our new relationship!

