



It is wonderful that you have chosen to have your child\* baptized! Your child is already a part of *your* family. Now your child will join a larger family – the Christian community. To prepare for this beautiful sacrament you are asked to follow the guidelines below:

**1. Be a member in good standing of Mary Help of Christians – you are a role model for your child.**

You should be registered at Mary Help of Christians for a minimum of 3 months and have a record of attendance. If you are registered at another Catholic church, and for a special reason wish to have the baptism at our church, you need the written permission of the pastor of both churches.

**2. Attend a baptism preparation class –understand the gift that you are giving your child.**

Baptism classes are offered at MHOC in both English and Spanish. Call the office for the dates and times and to register for the class. If you have attended the class in the last 3 years it is not necessary to attend again.

**3. Choose your child’s Godparents with care.**

Godparents must supply a sponsor certificate. They will obtain this document from the church to which they belong stating that they are qualified to be a Godparent. This includes being at least 16 years of age, Confirmed, and in good standing with the church. **They must also attend a baptism preparation class.** There may be no more than 2 Godparents.\*\*

Once you have checked off the above items you are ready to schedule your child’s baptism. The form can be obtained from the church office or by printing one from the church website; [www.mhocrc.org](http://www.mhocrc.org). Fill it out carefully as this information will be your child’s sacramental record for the rest of his or her life. Baptisms are on most Sundays at 1:30 p.m. They may be celebrated in both English or Spanish and the office staff can let you know which dates are available. Baptismal candles are supplied by the church.

\* The Baptism of children over the age of 7, or of adults, involves a special initiation process and either a priest or Director of Faith Formation will discuss this with the candidate.

\*\* For sufficient reason one of the Godparents may be a non-catholic, baptized Christian. (Christian Witness)