

**Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament**  
**1003 E. Victory Drive**  
**Savannah, GA 31405**

***Guidelines for Baptisms at Blessed Sacrament***

*It has been the constant practice of the Roman Catholic Church from the earliest times to administer the sacrament of Baptism to infants. Parents very naturally want to pass along their own faith to their child and their values that flow from that faith. Baptism marks the beginning of this faith life.*

*Pope John Paul II called the family the Domestic Church, the Christian home where the child begins to experience life as part of a collection of families called the Church. At Baptism, the parents and sponsors along with the whole Christian community take upon themselves the responsibility to make the Church and the world a place that will offer the newly baptized the love and support needed to grow to full Christian adulthood.*

*We welcome you and your family to Blessed Sacrament Parish for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please carefully read our guidelines in order to facilitate your celebration.*

**When are Baptisms Celebrated?** Baptism is usually celebrated at Blessed Sacrament on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Baptisms may also be celebrated during 10:30 Mass on most Sundays. Baptisms are not normally celebrated during the Season of Lent (the six weeks prior to Easter), since Lent is the traditional time of preparation for adult Baptism, which occurs at the Easter Vigil service. Exceptions to usual time for Baptisms may occur during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Baptisms may also occur at other times and dates. Please contact the Baptism Coordinator for alternative dates and times. In case of emergency or illness, Baptisms can take place at any time.

**At what age are children usually baptized?**

At Blessed Sacrament, children are generally baptized when they are between two and six months old. We encourage parents to wait after the child's birth until they can experience the joy of this occasion without undue fatigue or stress. However, all children up to age of seven are welcome to Baptism. We also welcome children age seven or older to Baptism. We offer baptismal preparation designed to meet the needs of older children and their parents. We welcome adults interested in Baptism to join our RCIA program. Please contact our Baptism Coordinator for more details.

**Can I have my child baptized if my spouse or the other parent is not Catholic?**

Yes, only one parent needs to have received the Sacrament of Baptism. The other parent must agree to have the child baptized. Please note, however, that if one or both of the parents have expressed an intent to become Catholic, the child may be baptized. As long as there is an earnest desire for the child to be reared in the Catholic faith, the Church will work with the parents on baptizing the child and addressing any specific concerns.

**Do I have to be married in the Church to have my child baptized?**

No, however, we would invite those who have not received this sacrament to contact the Parish office for more information on how to celebrate this sacrament.

**Role of Godparents in Baptism** Along with parents, a godparent is to present the child at baptism, to assist the parents in raising the child in the Catholic faith and to serve as a role model. See Qualifications for Godparents below.

**How do I arrange for my child to be baptized at Blessed Sacrament?**

Please complete the Baptism Information Form and return it to the Parish Office by email (parish@mbschurch.org), fax (912-692-0010), or mail (1003 E. Victory Dr., Savannah, GA 31405). Within 3 to 5 days, our Baptism Coordinator will contact you to confirm the information, answer any questions, provide additional information and confirm the date and time for your child's Baptism. The Baptism Information Form is available on our website or from the Parish Office.

### **Qualifications for Godparents**

There are five qualifications a godparent must meet:

- Be chosen by the parents or guardians of the child,
- Be at least 16 years old
- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and be a Catholic of good standing, leading a life in harmony with the faith
- Be someone other than the child's parents
- Not be bound by any penalty imposed by the Church

A Godparent or Christian Witness (see below) who is unable to attend the baptism may have a representative (proxy) take his/her place.

**How many godparents can a person have?** A person can have either one male or one female godparent, or one of each. Two godparents of the same sex or more than two godparents are not permitted. Additional sponsors are welcome, but are not officially considered godparents.

**Can a Christian who is not a Catholic serve as a godparent?** A non-Catholic cannot serve as a godparent, but he or she can participate in the baptism as a Christian Witness. However, it remains the responsibility of the Catholic godparent to ensure a Christian upbringing for the child. Similarly, Catholics are permitted to serve as baptismal witnesses in other Christian communities. If a non-Catholic Christian Witness is chosen, the other godparent must be a practicing Catholic. Note that a non-baptized person may not serve as a Christian witness.

**Preparing for Baptism** All new parents are asked to complete a Baptismal Preparation Class before their child is baptized. These are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center. If this is not your first child, we ask that you attend a class if it has been more than three years since you last attended. The preparation class is important for the information it provides regarding the ceremony and for a broader understanding of the significance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

### **What should the child wear for the baptism?**

A white garment is an ancient sign of the newly baptized Christian's new life in Christ. Your child's baptismal garment need not be a traditional baptismal or christening gown; it can be any clothing that is mainly white. (Regular department stores sell traditional baptismal gowns.)

### **Family Donation**

There is no fee for Baptisms at Blessed Sacrament. However many families wish to offer a donation to the Parish on the occasion of their child's Baptism. This may be placed in an envelope and given to the priest or deacon celebrating the Baptism or it may be mailed to the parish.

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**BAPTISM INFORMATION FORM**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT (This information will be used for official sacramental records)

Requested Baptism Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested Priest (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on the birth certificate)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on the birth certificate)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on the birth certificate)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: (Mother) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Father) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Place/Church of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

(If not Blessed Sacrament parishioners, a letter of permission is needed)

Godfather: \_\_\_\_\_ Is he a practicing Catholic? \_\_\_\_\_

Godmother: \_\_\_\_\_ Is she a practicing Catholic? \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Witness (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any of the Godparents to be represented by a proxy? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the child adopted? \_\_\_\_\_ Was the child privately baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form by email, fax or mail to:

**BAPTISM COORDINATOR**

Blessed Sacrament Church

1003 E. Victory Drive

Savannah, GA 31405

(912) 356-6980, Fax (912) 692-0010

parish@mbschurch.org