St. Joseph, Pillar of Families

121 East Water Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365

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[www.holyangelssidney.com](http://www.holyangelssidney.com)

The Sacrament of Baptism Preparation Class

Dear Parents:

Having your baby receive the Sacrament of Baptism is both a joyful and important decision for you and your whole family! It is with great happiness that the St. Joseph, Pillar of Families welcomes a new member.

You are not alone in this awesome task of raising your child in the faith, the entire Catholic Church is here to support you through prayer, sacrifice, and education. As part of our support, the parish provides a Sacrament of Baptism education program for all parents who are awaiting the birth or adoption of their child, or who have recently received a new child into their family.

Through the Baptism of your child, God is calling you to grow in fidelity both to Him and to each other. It is one of the times that He touches your life in a profound way.

Any time one prepares for a Sacrament, it is an opportunity to confirm Catholicism as the defining characteristic of one’s identity. It is also a beautiful time for couples in an interfaith marriage to share their love, care, and concern for their child’s spiritual welfare. Therefore, we welcome and encourage both parents to participate in the Sacrament of Baptism Preparation Class. Godparents are also welcome and encouraged to attend, as are babes in arms.

You have been scheduled for the 4:00 pm Sunday, October 8, 2023, session at St. Michael Church. Please contact the parish office at 937-498-2307 if you have any questions. Thank you.

With many prayers for you and your family,

The St. Joseph, Pillar of Families Parishes,



Holy Angels

Sacred Heart

Saint Michael

Saint Peter and Paul

**BASIC PARISH REQUIREMENTS**

**FOR BAPTISM OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

**OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Sacrament of Baptism is the initiation into the believing community of Christ’s Body, the Church. It is the beginning of a journey of faith. Baptism is never administered without faith.

A child is baptized through the faith and by request of the parents, with a serious assurance that after baptism the child will be educated and formed in the Catholic Christian life.

Since Baptism is the Sacrament of “belonging”, persons requesting Baptism for their child must:

* Be faithfully attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.

*“We encourage those parents who are presently not registered parish members or actively participating to take advantage of this opportunity to join with our parish community.”*

* Be properly prepared for active participation in the Baptism of their children through the parish Pre-Baptismal Program prior to the celebration of the Rite of Baptism for their first child. **This preparation is a requirement of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and should be arranged for early in the pregnancy by calling the rectory.** The preparation class is only required once.

\*Exceptional cases, especially those involving children ages 2-7, will be discussed with the coordinator in consultation with the Pastor.

 \*In the case of children over age 7, and adults seeking membership in the Catholic

Church, the process for initiation into the church is through the RCIA (Rite of Christian

Initiation for Adults and Children).

* Arrange the date for Baptism by calling the Parish Office at 937-498-2307 during regular office hours of 9 am – 4 pm Monday through Thursday (closed noon to 1 pm for lunch).
* All required paperwork must be returned to the parish office for verification and certificate preparation no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled date of Baptism.

**GODPARENTS**

Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age.

**The Godparent must be a faithful practicing Catholic** who is thus a fitting model of the Christian life. They must have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist and faithfully attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. **Sponsor eligibility information will be verified with their registered parish.**

You may have only one Godparent, male or female; or there can be two Godparents, one must be male and one female.

Protestants may not be Godparents at the Baptism of a Catholic, but a validly baptized protestant can be admitted and recorded as a witness together with the Catholic Godparent.

*“By God’s gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In His goodness, may He continue to pour out His blessing upon these sons and daughters of His. May He make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of His holy people.”*

* From the Rite of Baptism