

Requirements for Infant Baptism (For Children 6 Years And Under)

- If you are requesting baptism for your child, **at least one parent must be a practicing, baptized Catholic and be a registered parishioner at St. Joseph Church, Hilo.**
- **A donation to St. Joseph Church will be most welcome. No one will be denied the services if they cannot pay.**
- If you do not live in the Hilo area and are not registered currently with St. Joseph Church, you will need to go to the Catholic Church in the community you are living to inquire about baptism.
- You will need to select Godparents that meet the qualifications below. Both parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class. Once the parents or Godparents have attended a preparation class, it's valid for 3 years.
- Please provide a copy of your child's **BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.**
- If your Godparents do not live in Hilo, they may attend the baptismal preparation program at the Catholic Church they attend. They will need to get a letter verifying that they have completed the required preparation for a baptismal Godparent, which is offered at that Catholic Church and send it to us.

Please fax to: **808-969-1665**, or mail to: **St. Joseph Church 43 Kapiolani Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720**

Godparents:

Qualifications: Godparents/sponsors not only serve as witnesses at the ceremony of Baptism and/or Confirmation but also assist the person in leading a Christian life. Therefore, Church law requires that godparents/sponsors be people who are living the Catholic faith and meet the following qualifications (*Code of Canon Law, canons 872-874*):

1. They should ordinarily be at least 16 years of age.
2. One Male and/or One Female
3. They must be Catholics who have received Baptism, Confirmation, & first Holy Communion.
4. They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith & participating in the church regularly (i.e. Eucharist, confession, parish life, etc.).
5. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
6. Parents of the person to be initiated may not serve as godparents/sponsors.

Not qualified? Please speak to your pastor about receiving the sacraments and getting qualified!

Christian Witnesses for Baptism: If only one godparent is chosen for Baptism, someone validly baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community may serve as a Christian witness to the ceremony, along with the Catholic godparent. This form is not required for Christian witnesses. (Baptized Catholics who no longer practice their faith or who have joined another ecclesial community may not serve as Christian witnesses.)

Orthodox Christians: Orthodox Christians may serve as godparents/sponsors like a Catholic. Please provide a copy of valid church registration or baptism in your home church.

Proxies: If the godparent/sponsor cannot be present for the ceremony, a proxy may stand in as a witness at the ceremony. This person must attend a baptismal preparation class.

Thank you for registering for our St. Joseph Church Infant Baptism Class.

Due to Covid-19, we are redesigning the way we bring Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation to families here at our parish.

We are keeping in line with the recommendations made by our diocese, the County of Hawaii & the CDC guidelines to put the safety of all our people first.

You will find that all our classes or meetings will be done online as independent study and includes a virtual meeting for the rehearsal of the sacrament. We will then schedule a time to meet in-person for a prayer service for the reception of the sacrament. This preparation class will be done in three phases.

The **first phase** will be completed online using google classroom.

- Here you will find the diocesan videos used to catechize all parents and godparents. There are four short segments. Take your time to view each one.
- Immediately below, each parent & godparent will complete the short quiz based on the sacrament videos.
- The final video titled “What Constitutes a Practicing Catholic?” by Fr. Mike Schmitz is for parents and godparents to deepen your understanding of the Five precepts of the Catholic Church.

Once this phase is completed parents will email me at cvillena@rcchawaii.org to sign up for a one-on-one virtual meeting to walk through the Rite of Baptism for Children inside the church. I will respond with a link for the scheduling site. In this **second phase** we will discuss the questions, answers, and placement during the actual ceremony. There is a booklet found in the google classroom that will be used during the rehearsal and ceremony. We will not gather for baptism with a Mass, but only with the prayer service for this sacrament.

Phase three will be when we can sign up for the dates available for the Rite of Baptism.

- Both parents & godparents must all complete phase one AND two before scheduling any dates for ceremony.
- This prayer service will be limited to only the immediate family of the child. No more than 20 people.
- It will be held on a Saturday afternoon from 1-2pm.
- Our parish is asking for a monetary donation for this event to aide in the cleaning/disinfecting of the church.

Agreement to follow and comply with all Gathering Policies for St. Joseph Church-Hilo

NAME OF PARENTS OF CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED:

Mother: _____ Father: _____

I am pleased to announce that St. Joseph Church is once again able to offer Sacraments of Initiation particularly the RITE OF BAPTISM FOR ONE CHILD although we must insist that CDC guidelines be followed.

Please note the following:

1. Parents & Godparents will arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the ritual.
2. All guests must sanitize their hands upon entry/reentry to the Church.
3. Starting times have been adjusted to allow the parish time to properly sanitize the Church before the next scheduled event.
4. The rite of baptism will begin promptly when the celebrant arrives.
5. Number of guests will be limited to 20 at this time. This number includes the parents & godparents of the child to be baptized. You will be held responsible for limiting the number of guests as indicated.
6. All guests must wear face masks before entering the church & during the ritual.
7. All guests must practice social distancing which includes maintaining the 6-foot spacing and sitting in marked seats only designated by using only the first 3 rows on both sides of the center aisle.
8. All guests must remain in their seats for the duration of the ritual. Only the parents & godparents will be directed to move to the baptismal font area.
9. Post Ritual picturing taking is allowed however, masks must be worn while celebrant is present. It should be done quickly, and all guests should vacate soon thereafter.
10. The choir loft is locked and off limits.

Please note that all these requirements must be honored, or the celebrant will stop the Rite of Baptism and everyone will be required to leave the Church. There will be no exceptions.

Your signature(s) below indicates your understanding and agreement.

Name **Date**

Name **Date**

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

REVISED 10/26/2017

PERSON TO BE BAPTIZED : **(Print EXACTLY as it appears on birth certificate)**

NAME: _____ SEX: M _____ F _____
First Middle Last

BIRTHDATE: _____ BIRTHPLACE: _____
City State

PARENTS OF CHILD: (Print EXACTLY as it appears on birth certificate)

MOTHER: _____ (_____)
First Middle Last Maiden Name

FATHER: _____
First Middle Last

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ City State Zip Code

EMAIL FOR PARENT (REQUIRED): _____

PRIMARY PHONE: _____ ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

Married by: _____ Priest/Minister _____ Judge _____ Single

GODFATHER LEGAL NAME: _____

GODMOTHER LEAGL NAME: _____

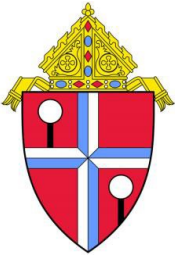
COMMENTS: _____

**Only individuals with COMPLETED packets & COMPLETED classes
will be eligible to reserve ceremony dates.**

St. Joseph Church Hilo, Hawaii / Phone 808-935-1465

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Certificate Printed: _____ Date Recorded in Register: _____



Office for Canonical Affairs

DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

Latin Catholic Church Sui Iuris

**Certificate for Godparents/Sponsors
for BAPTISM**

Person to be baptized (print): _____

Church where sacrament will be celebrated: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Qualifications:

Godparents/sponsors not only serve as witnesses at the ceremony of Baptism and/or Confirmation but also assist the person in leading a Christian life. Therefore, Church law requires that godparents/sponsors be people who are living the Catholic faith and meet the following qualifications (*Code of Canon Law*, canons 872-874):

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5. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
6. Parents of the person to be initiated may not serve as godparents/sponsors.

I hereby declare before God that I meet the above qualifications. I also promise to assist the person being initiated in living the Christian life as a faithful Catholic.

Godparent/sponsor signature: _____ Date: _____

Godparent/sponsor name (print): _____

Name of your Catholic parish: _____

Your city: _____ Your state or country: _____

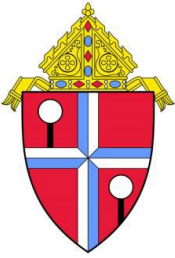
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