

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH
1008 AUSTIN ST. PORTLAND, TX 78374
(361) 643-7533

BAPTISM POLICY

- 1) According to church law, baptisms take place in the parish where the **parents reside**. If parents wish to have their child baptized in a parish other than their own, written permission from their proper pastor is required.
- 2) Within the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, parents make a promise to God to train their child “in the practice of the Faith”. This essentially means that parents intend to bring their child with them to Sunday Mass regularly, and intend to teach Gospel values by their own conduct and attitude at home. Parents who may have been lax in their own practice of the Faith should reflect on the serious obligation they undertake when they present their child for Baptism.
- 3) Parents and godparents are required to attend one class in preparation for Baptism. At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish this class is held on the first Sunday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the cry room of the church. If parents or godparents are coming from out of town, they may attend the baptismal instructions in their own parish and provide a record of their having attended to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish.
- 4) Requirements for Godparents: Godparents are to be chosen because they are examples of the practice of the Faith to the child being baptized. Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age. Godparents must be practicing Catholics who have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist). They must be regular in fulfilling their obligation of attending Sunday Mass, and, if married, they must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church. It is possible for a practicing Christian of another denomination to serve as a Christian Witness to the Baptism, but there must be at least one practicing Catholic godparent.
- 5) Prior to the baptism, a copy of the birth certificate of the child being baptized must be provided to the church office. Because baptismal records are considered as legal documents for Social Security, driver’s license etc., we are required to have the accurate information in the baptismal register of the church.
- 6) The date and time of the Baptism should be scheduled through our parish office. If there are any additional questions, contact our office staff or one of the parish priests at the number and address on the letterhead.