

Dear Parents:

In the name of the entire parish family, I want to take this opportunity to extend to you our best wishes and prayers at the birth of your new child. We want to assure you of our prayers as this 'gift' of God grows within your home and family.

We know this is an exciting time for you. A time to re-affirm love between parents; a time to draw family and friends closer together and a time to re-affirm faith in God, life and in all the tomorrow's to come. In many and varied ways, this child that you hold so tenderly in your arms, will be your thumb print in a future in which you and I will no longer be around to see. He or she will carry into the tomorrow's your dreams, your values and the proof that you once walked this earth. We rejoice with you as you prepare to have your child baptized. We rejoice that in some way, we too will have a part to play in your child's life and in the tomorrow's to come. And, that by joining with other believers your child will grow to be not just a member of the human race but a brother or sister to all God's children.

Baptism is more than a ritual. It is more than a Rite! It is more than an excuse to bring family and friends together. Baptism is a celebration of life with all of its' treasures. It is a commitment to live a certain value and way of life. It is only the beginning, of a journey to be completed when we rest in the arms of the Lord. It is not just the washing away of original sin but more so, a "Yes" to all that God asks of us and of you. Because baptism is all of these things and more, the Church puts great importance upon it and requires those who wish to receive it be prepared. We know you have some practical questions regarding the celebration of the Sacrament but there are also other areas we wish to call your attention to:

1. In order to insure that your child's baptism is done reverently and joyfully, we ask for scheduling sake that you contact the parish office at least one month prior to the celebration of your child's baptism.
2. That you understand that by having your child baptized Catholic you are saying before God that you intend to raise your child according to the Gospel of Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church. This means, on a practical level, to the best of your ability you will try to live and practice this faith of ours, first in your home, in your love for each other, and with us by worshipping together as the 'family of Christ' every week.

3. The purpose of a Godparent(s) is to insure and support the parents in the training and passing on of the faith. It is to be their friend and companion. For this reason and because the , Godparent is expected to be actively involved in the maturation of your child; we require that at least one of those Godparents be a practicing Catholic. You may have as many Godparents as you wish, however only two are recorded in the Church books and baptismal certificates.
4. No one likes to be caught off guard or ill-prepared. We require that the parents and Godparents attend one informational night regarding the baptism of their child and what this Sacrament means. The information night is compact and is quite enjoyable. It is usually held the fourth Wednesday of the Month in English.
5. Because baptism is a communal event and a welcoming into our church and family, feel free to invite whomever you wish. We try, to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the parish community.
6. Yes, you can take pictures. This is an important day and should be recorded in your family albums. We will make sure that your photographer will have every opportunity to catch on film what we celebrate that day. We do ask that your photographer realizes this is a holy moment and gives the celebrant room to move around.
7. Our Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. in either the main Church or the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Because the clergy here are limited and have many commitments, and because we are all brothers and work together, we take turns administering the Sacrament.
8. Is there a fee? Our fee is only 20.00 to cover the baptismal candle, certificate and the class. We're honored that you have chosen to have a child and raise that child within our faith community. If you would like to make a donation to our building fund, it would be greatly appreciated.

We keep these requirements to a minimum – one's that can be easily lived out and reasoned with. We are here to be family for you and your child. On the other hand, by baptism you are also making us responsible for your child's development, obligation we won't take lightly. To the best of our ability we hope to be there for your child as he or she grows and matures – as he or she hungers for the Bread of Life – as he or she is confirmed and proclaims faith – as he or she kneels to be wed to their beloved – to be a channel of the Lord as He absolves from sin and when the time of passage comes, to be present to give the Rite of anointing and commendation. To be your child's companion, in the walk of faith.

We lift you and your entire family to God praying that He will always be by your side, protecting you from all harm and guiding you in His way of love. We look forward to the day when your child is baptized, we remain,

Together in Christ,

Rev. Jeff McCormick
Pastor

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

Baptism Guidelines

1. Children, who are 7 years old, first need to be enrolled in the Religious Education Program before scheduling the Baptism.
2. Attach a copy of the child's Birth Certificate to the "Request for the Sacrament of Baptism Form."
3. Both parents need to consent to the Baptism.
4. If the parents belong to another Catholic Church, they need permission from their Pastor to baptize their baby at St. Max.
5. The Catholic Godparents need to obtain permission in writing from their parish (Sponsor Certificate). They must be:
 - a) A baptized Catholic, who has also received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion, and is practicing the faith. (Attending Mass regularly)
 - b) At least 16 years of age.
 - c) If they are currently married, this marriage took place in the Catholic Church.
 - d) Someone other than the father or mother, spouse or fiancé of the one who is to be baptized.
 - e) Registered in the parish they attend.
6. It is necessary that at least one of the Godparents be Catholic and Confirmed. A Godparent who is not Catholic, needs to be a Baptized Christian and will appear with the title of Christian Witness. A non-baptized person may never act as a Godparent or Christian Witness.
7. Parents and Godparents need to attend a Baptism Class as a requirement for the celebration of the Sacrament.
8. A Godparent who can't be present in person can be represented by proxy. Requirements for the proxy are the same as those for a Godparent. (See # 5)
9. \$ 20.00 is required to reserve the date of the Baptism.
10. For exceptions you need to speak with a priest.

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH
701 North Hiatus Road
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33026
954-432-0206

REQUEST FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Our fee is only \$20.00 to cover the baptismal candle, certificate and the class.
(You can pay it now or on the day of the class)

If you would like to make a donation to our building fund, it would be greatly appreciated.

Today's date _____

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Father's Name _____

Religion of Father _____

Mother's First and Maiden Name _____

Religion of Mother _____

Were Parents Married by a Catholic Priest? _____

Family Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Are you registered in the parish? _____ Yes _____ No

When would you like to have your child Baptized?
(Please indicate month you are requesting)

Godfather's Name _____

Religion of Godfather _____

Godmother's Name _____

Religion of Godmother _____