



St. Didacus Church

14337 Astoria Street • Sylmar, California 91342
(818) 367-6181

Congratulations on the birth of your child!

We the Parish of Saint Didacus are very happy that you are planning to celebrate your child's second birth through Baptism. We are here to help you prepare for your child's first encounter with Christ as meaningful a way as possible.

Ordinarily the preparation for Baptism involves:

- Parents must be registered in the Parish. Registration at the Parish Office ~ open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (818) 367-6181
- Attendance at the Baptism Class for Parents and Godparents is mandatory.
- Classes are held every first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.
- Attendance at a Pre-Baptism Class in another Parish is acceptable, but a certificate is required.
- A copy of the child's birth or hospital certificate is required in order to process your application.
- If residing outside of St. Didacus Parish boundaries and not registered at St. Didacus a letter of permission to baptize from your parish is required.
- After attending instructions, the **Parents** must call to make an appointment with one of the priests of the Parish to provide the information needed for the Parish records and to set a date.

If registered in another Parish permission from that Church is needed to baptize here. Baptisms are administered on the second and fourth Sundays of each month in English. In Spanish, every first and third Sundays at 2:30 p.m. For information please call the Parish Office.

ROLE OF SPONSORS:

In so far as possible, a person being baptized is to be assigned a sponsor. In the case of an infant Baptism, the role is together with the parents to present the child for Baptism and to help the child live a Christian life befitting the baptized and faithfully to fulfill the duties inherent in baptism by their example and encouragement.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPONSORS:

- One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient.
- Sponsors must be practicing Catholics (weekly Mass attendance and frequent reception of the Sacraments.)
- Sponsors must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation (be 18 years or older).
- Sponsors need not be a married couple, but if a sponsor is married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.

Since Baptism is a common Sacrament to all Christians, a Non-Catholic Christian may act as a "Christian Witness" at a Catholic Baptism, but they must be practicing their Christian Faith. This excludes, however those who were formerly Catholic.

* Non-Christians may not act as a "Christian Witness" or Sponsors for a Catholic Baptism.

Saint Didacus Church

Pre-Baptismal Classes

For Parents and Godparents

These questions are for your reflection. If you have difficulty answering one or more of these questions, then you might want to ask our host about various adults programs offered at Saint Didacus Church.

Why am I here today? _____

What do I think Baptism is for? _____

What is Mass? _____

What is Communion? _____

What is Confirmation? _____

What is Reconciliation? _____

Do we have to go to Mass every Sunday? _____

Do Married Couples have to be married in the church? _____

What is Catholic? _____

What is Christian? _____

What is a practicing Catholic? _____

Hope in the Lord



The Role of Godparents

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship ~ one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life, and keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts which celebrate holy events . . . Christmas, Easter . . . and personal growth events . . . graduation, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a Bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

GODPARENTS

What are some things you hope for this child in his/her life? _____

What can be a good gift for this child that won't cost money? _____

What are the most positive aspects of being a Catholic that you can share with this child? _____

What are some ways that you can encourage this child to be an active Christian? _____

What are some positive ways you can help this child's parents in their responsibilities of Christian Parents? _____
