

*Welcome to St. John the Evangelist! We are so excited that you are seeking baptism for your child. Baptism is a beautiful beginning to a lifelong journey of faith in Jesus Christ. Together with the parents and sponsors, our entire Christian Community is happy to be here to offer love and support to help your child grow in the faith. The following information is intended to help you and your family best prepare for the sacrament of baptism and the faith commitment you are about to enter with your child. May God bless you and your family. -The Baptism Ministry at St. John the Evangelist-*

*This information is also available at our website at [www.saintjohntheevangelist.com](http://www.saintjohntheevangelist.com)*

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Your family will be assigned a Baptism Hospitality Host member who will contact you before your special day. He/she will assist you before and during the baptism.

**Plan for the special day** Parents and sponsors, please arrive at the church no later than 15 minutes before Mass to meet your baptism host. Extended family members and friends may seat themselves in the reserved sections for your family (your host will direct them to those sections). A white christening gown is customary to be worn by the child/infant, but is not required. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for the baptism. The parish will provide a white Baptismal bib and decorated candle. After the ceremony, they will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous occasion. The candle can be burned on Baptismal Anniversaries and when the child receives sacraments in the future.

### **Baptism Steps**

**1. Schedule your baptism** After attending the baptism preparation class, please call the Parish Secretary at 239-566-8740 to schedule your Baptism. Baptisms are every day, unless it is prohibited on the Liturgical Calendar (Easter Triduum, etc.) Plan to attend the 1:00 or 1:15 PM Mass with your family and friends on the day of your Baptism, depending on your baby's temperament that day. You will have reserved seating if you wish and will be acknowledged and welcomed during Mass. The actual Baptism ceremony will begin immediately following Mass at approximately 2:00/2:15 pm. **If you have an emergency and cannot make it to your Baptism, please contact the Parish Secretary as soon as possible. If the office is closed, please call the Sacristy at 239-566-8740 ext. 3912.**

**2. Review your Baptismal Register** Your child's Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of the parish from the information you provide. Therefore, **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**, be sure of the accuracy of information and the spelling of names. A Baptism certificate will be prepared for you and given to you on the day of your child's Baptism. Later, when a certificate might be needed it can be prepared from the parish record.

**3. Take Pictures at the Baptism** You are welcome to take photos and videos during your child's baptism ceremony. They make for special memories to mark such a joyous event in your child's life. We ask that at the end of the Baptism ceremony you take pictures with your family and if there are other families, join in a group picture with them. The Hospitality Host may be taking pictures also. We would like to include a photo in our church bulletin with our newest members to share with the entire parish family. You may also submit pictures to the Bulletin Editor.

**In order for us to put your picture in our Bulletin, you will have to sign a waiver, prior to your child's Baptism.**

**4. Save some Baptismal Water** A holy water bottle will be given to you to save some of the holy water from your child's baptism. You may also bring a small container to collect additional holy water if you wish.

**5. Consider a Family Donation** There is no fee for the baptism, however, many families wish to offer a donation on the occasion of their child's Baptism. This may be placed in an envelope and given to the celebrant on the day of the Baptism or it may be mailed to the parish at St. John the Evangelist, 625 111th Ave North, Naples, FL 34108. Please be sure to indicate that the donation is for the occasion of your child's (name) Baptism.