

NEW BAPTISM POLICY CHANGES

Parents of children to be baptized are reminded that every Catholic parish follows archdiocesan guidelines for baptisms. There are some new policies on infant baptism that will go into effect immediately. You should be aware of the following:

* First-time Parents & Godparents must attend a Baptismal Seminar. Once initial seminar has been completed, parents & godparents may call the rectory (733-0922) to obtain a baptism packet for additional children. Seminars at SMM are usually held the 1st Monday of the month (unless it falls on a holy day or civic holiday) at 7:30 PM in the chapel (**as of January 1, 2014, time will change to 7PM**). NO pre-registration is necessary.

* Parents of all children to be baptized will be asked to sign a testimonial stating their intention to raise their child in the Catholic faith

* Godparents **MUST** be baptized, practicing, confirmed Catholics at least 16 years of age and must be in good standing with the Church. If married **MUST** be in a marriage recognized as valid in the Catholic Church; if unmarried, may not be co-habiting or living together without marriage. Godparents will be asked to sign a testimonial stating that they meet this criteria.

* **NO** Baptisms will be scheduled until completed packet has been submitted to the rectory and the pastor has approved & signed testimonials. As soon as this occurs, the Baptism Coordinator will contact families to set Baptism date.

Any questions, call Susie Sullivan/Parish Coordinator at 733-8980 or contact by email: ssullivan@smm.nocoxmail.com. Archdiocesan policies on infant baptism may be found at [www.arch-no.org/Human Resources/Policies/Policy on Infant Baptism](http://www.arch-no.org/HumanResources/Policies/PolicyonInfantBaptism) OR on parish website.