

**St. Polycarp Catholic Church
8100 Chapman Avenue
Stanton, CA 90680
(714) 893-2766**

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the parish community of Saint Polycarp, we join in your happiness and joy at the birth of your child. New birth always brings with it hope. We pray that this new beginning, the gift of life, will be a time to thank God who is the giver of all good gifts.

As you prepare for the baptism of your child, please remember that success and true growth depends upon your personal involvement and participation in your child's faith journey. So, as we begin, let us do so with prayer asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

To enroll your child for baptism we ask that you fill out the enclosed BAPTISM ENROLLMENT FORMS and attach a **copy of the county recorded birth certificate (no hospital records)**. Please be sure all information is correct, as it will be used to prepare your child's Baptism Certificate and to create a legal document to be recorded in the Church Registry.

To ensure that your child's baptism is timely recorded, all information and documents must be accurately completed and ***returned no later than the day of the instructional orientation meeting, which must be completed before the date you have chosen for your child's baptism.*** (Please see the Baptism Schedule for dates.)

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 714-893-2766 and leave a message for Dcn. Larry Leone.

Sincerely yours,

Dcn. Larry Leone
Infant Baptism Coordinator

Baptism Schedule 2019

Orientation Meetings	Sacrament of Baptism
9-11AM Meeting Room (Portables)	2:30 PM (Arrival time 2:00PM) In the Church
* Parents & Sponsors Must attend Orientation *Please ARRIVE ON TIME. Late arrivals may have to reschedule baptism date.	*Sponsors MUST MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS as listed in the attached document. *Class must be completed to have your child baptized.

Instructional Orientation	Sacrament of Baptism
January 13, 2019	January 20, 2019
February 10, 2019	February 17, 2019
March 10, 2019	March 17, 2019
NO CLASS IN APRIL	NO BAPTISM IN APRIL
May 12, 2019	May 19, 2019
June 9, 2019	June 16, 2019
July 14, 2019	July 21, 2019
NO CLASS IN AUGUST	NO BAPTISM IN AUGUST
September 8, 2019	September 15, 2019
October 13, 2019	October 20, 2019
November 10, 2019	November 17, 2019
December 8, 2019	December 15, 2019

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

In common usage sponsors are known as Godparents. But in Church Law they are referred to as sponsors. In accordance with **Canons 872, 874, 892 and 893**, the Tradition of the Church requires that, together with parent(s), a sponsor or sponsors are present for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. **The role of the sponsor is to assist the parent(s) in witnessing to the integrity of the Catholic faith and to support the child living that faith.** For this reason, all of the following are required of sponsors.

- A minimum of **one Sponsor/Godparent** is required for baptism. The sponsor need not be the same sex as the child. When there are **two sponsors one must be male** and the **other female**. Our Church has no provision for multiple sponsors beyond the maximum of two.
- The sponsor(s) must be **at least sixteen years of age** and have **received ALL** the Sacraments of Initiation: **Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and, if married, it must be a marriage recognized by the Church.**
- The sponsor(s) must be an **active Catholic**, who **lives the faith**, participates in Mass faithfully every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, and is willing to share the faith with his/her godchild.
 - *A person, who is bound by any canonical penalty, legitimately imposed or declared, **may not serve as a sponsor.***
 - *A person who is (1) **cohabiting** or (2) **civilly married** and has *neither been joined in sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church* or obtained a dispensation to be married outside the Church from the Bishop, **may not serve as a sponsor.***
- Sponsor(s) and parents **MUST** attend a baptism class within 2 years prior to the baptism. This can be done at St. Polycarp or at another parish (a letter of confirming attendance elsewhere will be required *before* the baptism).
- The sponsor(s) **cannot** be the mother or father of the child to be baptized.
- The use of proxies for sponsors is *discouraged*.
- **Non-Catholics may not act as sponsors.** However, *together with qualified sponsors and a sufficient reason*, a baptized, non-Catholic may act as a **“Christian witness”** to the baptism.

Selecting sponsors is an important decision and it causes undue problems to propose someone as a sponsor who does not meet the Church's requirements. You are not simply honoring friends or relatives with a title whose responsibility ends at the conclusion of the celebration of the baptismal rite. **You are asking them to enter a privileged faith relationship with your son or daughter.** Sponsors do not replace parents, but support them in helping their child to grow in the Catholic faith. **They are not only helpers during the Baptism itself, but throughout the child's life. *Please consider this very carefully!!***

THE LIGHTED CANDLE

The lighted candle recalls the words of our Lord, "I am the light of the world." This is represented in the Easter candle, which stands beside the altar during the Easter season. After the Ascension it is brought to the baptistery where it is lighted for every baptism. From this Easter candle, then, is taken the light given to every child at their baptism. Christ said, through the Apostles, "You are the light of the world."

The **baptismal candle is a requirement during the ceremony.** St. Polycarp provides one (1) free candle for each child that is to be baptized. Usually the Godfather is given the responsibility to light the candle during the ceremony. If you have more than one set of Godparents standing for your child, it is required that only one Godfather light the candle for the child; but if you wish to have all the Godfathers light a candle for the child, those additional candles must be provided by the family. If there is only a Godmother standing for the child, then the responsibility of lighting the candle will be passed to the Godmother.

The candle will become a beautiful remembrance for the child to carry through life. It is also an occasion for the parents to tell about baptism, making the whole history of them being a child of God and "the light of the world" even more meaningful.

THE BAPTISMAL GARMENT

The baptismal garment represents clothing in a new life; the life of Christ, which one receives in Baptism.

Each family is required to provide their own white baptismal garment. This white garment is worn during the ceremony. It is important that the child wear a nice outfit that is easy to unbutton from the front of the outfit for the anointing on the breastbone with the Oil of the Catechumen.

Celebrant: (Child's name), you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: Amen

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Infant Baptism – Sunday class starts at 9:00 am in the meeting room.

(Class starts at 9:00 am sharp. If you are more than 30 minutes late then you will not be able to attend the current class and have to reschedule for another class.)

Pre-Baptism Checklist

Parents and godparents must attend the class.

Turn in papers at the Orientation Class

- Make sure documents are complete
- Make sure that the county birth certificate is attached.

Register with the Church –

- Register if you are not registered with St. Polycarp Church.
- If you attend another church, attach a copy of a letter of permission from home parish.

Confirm chosen Godparents-

- At least 16 years of age
- Received all their Sacraments (Baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation)
- Attend Mass Regularly
- If married, that their marriage is recognized by the church

Attend Orientation

- Orientation must be completed to have your child baptized
- If parents or godparents have already attended baptismal orientation within the last 2 years or elsewhere, then proof is needed from the church that they attended class.
- - Proof of baptismal orientation attendance within the past 2 years will only be credited toward class.
 - The Baptismal class is mandatory

Service Fees:

- If participants are tacking the Orientation only, the fee is \$25.00 per person.
- If baptizing the child (or children) at St. Polycarp, the fee will be only \$50.00 for each child, which includes the orientation class.
- Please make all payments at the Parish office.

ENGLISH INFANT BAPTISM

CHILD'S NAME _____

DATE OF BAPTISM _____
(Please indicate preferred month of Baptism)

DATE OF CLASS* _____
(Please indicate month you will attend class)

PARENT(S) REGISTERED AT ST. POLYCARP CHURCH: Yes _____ No ** _____

* If parents or godparents have attended a Baptism Preparation Class within the last 24 months, they are not required to attend a new class. However, a letter certifying previous attendance must accompany this packet. If the class attended was at St. Polycarp, call Baptism Coordinator with date of attendance.

** If parents are **not registered at St. Polycarp Church**, they must supply a **letter of permission** allowing their child to be baptized at St. Polycarp from the pastor of the church at which they are registered.

A copy of the child's **county recorded birth certificate** must accompany this packet. A certificate from a hospital is not sufficient.

Please prepare all paperwork with the needed documents as soon as possible. If your paperwork is NOT received **by the day of the Orientation meeting**, your child's Baptism may have to be rescheduled.

If you plan on attending the Baptism Orientation meeting to be a sponsor, for an infant Baptism at another Roman Catholic Church, please read the "Requirements for Sponsors" (page 3 of 8) and complete the Sponsors information (page 8 of 8).

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

ENGLISH INFANT BAPTISM INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
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All information is confidential.

Father's Name: _____
First
Middle
Last

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Holy Communion?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Confirmation?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you married?	Yes _____	No _____
Is it a marriage <i>recognized by the Church</i> ?	Yes _____	No _____

Mother's Name: _____
First
Middle
Last

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Holy Communion?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Confirmation?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you married?	Yes _____	No _____
Is it a marriage <i>recognized by the Church</i> ?	Yes _____	No _____

Full Name of Child: _____
First
Middle
Last

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ AGE: _____

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
City
State

I DO SOLEMNLY PROMISE TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRAINING MY CHILD IN THE PRACTICE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH BY WORD AND EXAMPLE, OF BRINGING HIM/HER UP TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE, OF KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AS CHRIST TAUGHT US, AND OF LOVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

I certify that the above information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Father
Date

Signature of Mother
Date

ENGLISH INFANT BAPTISM SPONSOR(S) / GODPARENT(S) ENROLLMENT
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All information is confidential.

Godfather's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Holy Communion?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Confirmation?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you married?	Yes _____	No _____
Is it a marriage <i>recognized by the Church</i> ?	Yes _____	No _____

Godmother's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____ Alternate Number: () _____

Are you a baptized Catholic?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Holy Communion?	Yes _____	No _____
Have you received Confirmation?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you now attending Mass regularly?	Yes _____	No _____
Are you married?	Yes _____	No _____
Is it a marriage <i>recognized by the Church</i> ?	Yes _____	No _____

I DO SOLEMNLY PROMISE TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRAINING MY GODCHILD IN THE PRACTICE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH BY WORD AND EXAMPLE, OF BRINGING HIM/HER UP TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE, OF KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AS CHRIST TAUGHT US, AND OF LOVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

I certify that the above information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Godfather *Date*

Signature of Godmother *Date*