

## **Requirements for Infant or Child Baptism:**

### **General:**

-In order for Baptism to take place, it is necessary that there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the faith. If that hope is not present, the priest reserves the right to defer the baptism to a later time, however he does *not* have the right to totally refuse the baptism.

### **Parents:**

-Parents are to undergo baptismal preparation courses. At St. Joseph in Harvard, this is one class that lasts around 45 minutes

-The qualifications gained from this class last 5 years

-If the parents belong to an outside parish, they must acquire a letter of permission from their pastor, saying that the parents have permission to baptize here and that they have fulfilled their requirements.

### **Godparents:**

-Like the parents, they are to undergo baptismal preparation courses in the parish where they reside. Only those who live within the St. Joseph Parish boundaries are able to take the course here. Godparents who live outside the parish are required to take their courses in the parish in which they reside.

-They must be at least 16 years of age

-They must be baptized and confirmed, and have received their First Holy Communion

-At least one of the Godparents must be Catholic. If there is to be only one Godparent, he/she must be Catholic

-The Catholic Godparent must be a practicing Catholic—if they can receive Communion they can be a Godparent

+“Practicing Catholic” means:

+They attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days

+If they are married, they are married in the Church

+If they are single, they live as a single person, not living with a boyfriend or girlfriend

### **Child:**

-If an infant, they just come as they are

-If a child 7 years or older, they are either to go to a Catholic School for religious education, or attend CCD/Catechism Classes