

**Our Lady of the Valley AND St. Raphael**  
Parent Preparation Program for Infant/Child Baptism

- 1) **The 3-session program is required and must be completed by all parents BEFORE the baptism of the child(ren).** The only exceptions are for parents who have participated in our program within the last 3 years (with at least 30 days notice) and for infant/child emergencies. The class sessions are for ADULTS, infants/children are not to accompany parents to the sessions. **Arrange your childcare in advance.**
- 2) **The program is for parents of children up to six (6) years of age inclusive.** The sessions may be attended before the birth of the child and anytime thereafter.
- 3) **Parents must pre-register** for the program by **no later than the week prior to the first session.** Forms are in BOTH parish offices. **A photocopy of the child's birth certificate MUST be attached to the registration form**
- 4) **Godparent Eligibility:** Godmothers and godfathers (sponsors) are always welcome to participate in the program but are not required to do so. ***Church law requires both be 16 or more years old and at least one godparent be a practicing, confirmed Roman Catholic and if married must be married in a Catholic Church. If both godparents are Roman Catholic, both must be practicing and confirmed.*** A second godparent (witness), if not Catholic, must be a baptized committed Christian. Whenever a godparent cannot be present for the actual baptism, *any baptized person, 12 yrs and older*, designated by the parents, may serve as a proxy. **Eligibility letter indicating above requirements are met from the Catholic sponsor's parish is required if they are not a registered member of Our Lady of the Valley or St. Raphael parishes.**
- 5) The preparation sessions are generally held on the **first 3 Mondays of the months of September, November, January, March and May.** All sessions begin **promptly at 7:00 PM**, end about 8:30 PM, and are held in the Adult Education Center at St. Raphael Parish (rear of the Administration Building, entrance from the parking lot at 55<sup>th</sup> and Acoma Road in Glendale).
- 6) The parish schedule for infant/child baptism is generally monthly on the ***first Sunday at 1:30 PM, at St. Raphael*** in a sacramental liturgy without a Mass, and ***at 9:00 AM at Our Lady of the Valley.*** Baptisms are not scheduled during the season of Lent. No stipend/donation is required but is suggested. **Everyone in your party must be in the church vestibule no later than 15 minutes in advance.**
- 7) For any additional information or answers to specific questions, call St. Raphael parish office (602-938-4227) during the hours (9 AM to 4 PM) Monday through Thursday or Friday (9 AM to Noon).
- 8) See additional requirements and schedules on flip side of this page.