

**Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas**  
**BAPTISMAL MINISTRY TO LARGER FAMILIES**

*Archbishop Naumann, as a way of showing his solicitude and personal support for those couples open to raising larger families, has offered to celebrate the baptism of the third or greater child for such families. These baptisms will be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis. The directives for this baptismal ministry are as follows:*

- The child to be baptized must be the third or greater child of the family, either by birth, adoption, or the blending of families through a valid and licit marriage.
- The parents of the child to be baptized must receive the authorization of their parish pastor, and must fulfill any sacramental preparation obligations according to their parish's baptismal preparation program.
- A registration form, provided by the archdiocese, must be filled out by the parents, signed by their parish pastor, and submitted to the archdiocesan Office for Liturgy and Sacramental Life no later than one week prior to the scheduled baptism.
- The baptism will be recorded in the register of the place where the baptism takes place (i.e., the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Kansas City, KS). The Office for Liturgy and Sacramental Life will assist with this information, in accord with canons 877-878 of the Code of Canon Law. The place of baptism will also issue the baptismal certificate.
- All relevant diocesan and canonical norms regarding the sacrament of baptism remain effective.
- Each child to be baptized should have at least one Catholic godparent, which may be either male or female. In the case of two Catholic godparents, one must be male and the other female. A baptized non-Catholic may accompany a Catholic godparent as a Christian witness to the baptism, and must be of a different gender than the godparent (e.g., Catholic male godparent and female Christian witness).
- A baptismal candle and white (overlay) garment for the newly-baptized child will be provided by the Office for Liturgy and Sacramental Life. The use of traditional Christening gowns or other appropriate dress for the child is welcomed. Families are also welcomed to provide their own overlay garment or candle, if this is part of their family's custom or desire.
- Family members and other guests of the family are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in the baptismal service. The baptismal service does not include Mass.

*Additional questions may be directed to the Office for Liturgy and Sacramental Life (913-647-0330 or [liturgy@archkck.org](mailto:liturgy@archkck.org)).*