



Guidelines for the Completion of the Infant Baptism Registration Form:

1. All names in the form should be given in full as recorded in their NRIC / Birth Certificate / Passport. The baptism certificate is an official document and would be required in future for such events as confirmation and registration of marriage in the church.

2. The **Baptismal name** for the child should be a Saint's name or should reflect a Christian mystery or virtue; this is in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. (****Please read attachment herewith***)

Some suggested web sites you could refer to for Catholic Saints' names are:

<http://www.catholic-saints.info/>

<http://babynamesworld.parentsconnect.com/category-saints-names.html>

3. You are required to have at least one Godparent for your child and the official limit on the Baptism Certificate is two Godparents. The Godparents must be **confirmed practicing Catholics** as their responsibility is to be exemplary Christians to their godchild and also to be their guide and support of their faith especially when the Baptised godchild is experiencing trials in the practice of his/her faith.

Please note: Both parents and all Godparents are required to attend the infant baptism briefing before your child is baptised. Attached herewith are:

- i. Briefing notes on our Infant Baptism Programme
- ii. Notes and Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission mandate on the Baptism Name of the child
- iii. Infant Baptism Registration Form

INFANT BAPTISM PROGRAMME

Who Are We?

The Infant Baptism Programme (IBP) seeks to help parents and godparents prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism of their infants. The Infant Baptism team also represents the parish community in welcoming the infants to the Church and the parish.

The facilitators from the Infant Baptism team plan, organize and manage the monthly sessions that help to prepare parents, godparents and infants to celebrate the Sacrament more meaningfully. The briefing sessions are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, while the baptism is on the second Sunday of the month. One of the priests is usually present at these sessions to provide spiritual guidance and direction, and to set the tone of the session.

What do we do?

The preparatory Sunday meeting is divided into 2 parts: the spiritual and the practical.

Part A: Spiritual and Sharing Session:

In this session, the facilitators lead the discussion and share their experiences. They also encourage the parents and godparents to reflect on and share their thoughts on the following topics:

1. **What is a Christian parent?** Do we appreciate that Christian parenthood is a vocation? How can Christian parents help in their children's faith formation?

2. Godparents

Who are they? What are their roles and responsibilities? How can godparents help in the faith formation of their godchildren?

3. Christian Community: Our Roles and Responsibilities

How can our Christian community help nurture the faith of your child?

Part B: Practical Guidelines and Logistics:

Here we attend to the practical concerns on the day of baptism, such as: What time does it start? What are the readings? Where do we sit / stand? What colour clothes should my child wear? etc.

What should we do to prepare for the preparatory session?

Please reflect on the 3 sections that are highlighted above and come prepared to share your thoughts and experiences on them. We are hopeful that you will discover more of what the Sacrament of baptism is for you and your child.

We look forward to seeing you.

The Infant Baptism Team,

Church of St. Ignatius

Baptism Name – Some Pointers by Fr Philip Heng, S.J.

As the Sacrament of **Baptism totally transforms** a person into a son/daughter of God the Father, one's **identity too is totally transformed**. To symbolise this total transformation, the Church teaches that we take on **a baptismal name** of a Christian saint because in reality a Baptised person is more than simply a son/daughter of his/her parent.

This new name also gives the baptised person **a patron saint** i.e. a Christian who had lived an exemplary Christian life and had even died for his/her faith. The essence of our Christian faith is our belief in the resurrection after death. Thus, we believe that the baptised person's patron saint who is enjoying eternal happiness with God and all the saints in heaven will be praying fervently and constantly for the person who has taken him/her as a patron saint. Also, the patron saint can be **a good model** of how the newly Baptised can strive to live his/her Christian faith.

We should see these teachings of our Church **as values** we should rightly uphold and **not rigid rules** and regulations that we have to obey. In the **Church's Wisdom of 2,000 years**, we are blessed to have such rich traditions handed down to us today. It is only wise that we accept such treasures of the Church. In contrast, we can see why it does not make sense to choose a secular name e.g. that of a Hollywood film star or some popular names or fancy names of an island, tree or object and the like. I attach herewith the position of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission on this matter.

Baptism Name – Directives from Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission:

Dear Fr Philip

With regards to your query on why we should have Christian names at Baptism, I would like to draw your attention to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Code of Canon Law and the recent exhortation by the Holy Father.

Names that express Christian mysteries can be the name of **a saint** who lived a great spiritual life and who enjoyed a very special relationship with the Lord Jesus. (The Catechism of the Catholic Church –CCC no. 2156, 2165)

C.C.C. 2156 "The sacrament of Baptism is conferred "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." [Mt 28:19.] In Baptism, the Lord's name sanctifies man, and the Christian receives his name in the Church. This can be the name of a saint, that is, of a disciple who **has lived a life of exemplary fidelity to the Lord**. The **patron saint** provides a model of charity; we are assured of his

intercession. The "baptismal name" can also express *a Christian mystery* or *Christian virtue*. "Parents, sponsors, and the pastor are to see that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment." [Code of Canon Law, Can. 855.]

C.C.C. no 2165 "In Baptism, the Christian receives his name in the Church. Parents, godparents, and *the pastor* are to see that he *be given a Christian name*. The patron saint provides a model of charity and the assurance of his prayer."

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 9 2011, after baptizing 21 infants in the Sistine Chapel, *Pope Benedict* captured international headlines for reminding Catholic parents throughout the world that they should be choosing Christian names for their children.

The choice of a name, he emphasized, *shouldn't be done "by chance" or whim*, but should reinforce and communicate to the growing child and others one of the *essential realities of the sacrament of baptism and the Christian life*.

The Christian name — in contrast to a non-Christian name — signifies that in baptism *"every baptized person acquires the character of a son"* and is *"an unmistakable sign that the Holy Spirit gives birth to man 'anew' from the womb of the Church."*

A Christian name manifests that through baptism a child is *"raised to the supernatural order"* and *"placed in communication with God,"* who then calls that child by that given name.

Naming the child after a Christian saint or Biblical hero is a concrete reminder for the child and everyone else that *God is calling that child*, like his or her Christian namesake, to holiness and heaven. A Christian name concretely that there is, and is meant to be, *a connection and continuity between natural and supernatural life, and between earthly and eternal life*.

Much of this connection has been getting gradually lost in Christian practice, which is the reason why Pope Benedict needed to bring it to our attention.

Fr Ignatius Yeo

Chairman of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission – Singapore

4th March, 2011



Catholic Church of
st. **IGNATIUS**
Singapore

INFANT BAPTISM Registration Form

(Please refer to the attached guidelines for the completion of the form. Please complete the form clearly and legibly. All names should be given in full as in BC / NRIC / Passport)

Proposed Date of Baptism: _____

Full Name of Child: _____

Baptismal Name of Child (**Please see point 2 of the attached guidelines*):

Gender: Male / Female (**Please circle one*)

Country of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Father: _____ Religion: _____

Name of Mother: _____ Religion: _____

Address: _____

Home Tel: _____ Mobile No.: _____

Email: _____

Name of CATHOLIC Godfather: _____

Name of CATHOLIC Godmother: _____

(Note: At least one Godparent is required. Godparent must be a practicing Catholic Christian.)

Minister: _____