

## **POLICY 6**

### **HOLY BAPTISM**

1. Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble; hence the sacrament cannot be repeated.
2. Except in emergencies, Holy Baptism shall be administered at a public service, and is appropriately celebrated at the main service on a Sunday or other feast of the Lord, within the context of the Holy Eucharist.
3. It is recognized that Holy Baptism will not be administered every Sunday. It is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Day, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints= Day or the Sunday following, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the First Sunday after Epiphany), on the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (or the Sunday following), on Holy Cross Day (or the Sunday following), or when the Bishop is present.
4. The incumbent of the parish is responsible for seeing that appropriate preparation is given to all candidates for Holy Baptism or, in the case of infants and young children, to their parents and sponsors.
5. Only in exceptional circumstances should persons be baptized in a parish other than where they regularly reside or worship. When baptism is requested for a person who is a member of another parish, or for the child of such a person, he or she will first submit to the incumbent the written consent of the incumbent of his or her parish that the baptism proceed, with notification that adequate baptismal preparation has been completed.
6. Sponsors must themselves have been baptized and be able to make the promises. Parents may act as sponsors for their child, or children, provided that there is at least one other sponsor as well.