



Preparing for Baptism

Please read this leaflet carefully and know that our parish is ready to assist you in this wonderful and awesome task of nurturing and nourishing the life of your family.

Baptism seminars are held via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm. The sacrament of Baptism is usually held on the 3rd Saturday after the 4PM Mass or the 3rd Sunday at the end of the 10 AM Mass (excluding Easter) but allowances can be made.

Parents requesting baptism should be registered in the parish. First time parents and godparents must attend a baptismal. Additionally, if you are registered in a different parish, the priest (pastor) of your home parish must send us a letter granting us a dispensation to perform the sacrament and acknowledgment of the parties' participation at a baptismal in the parish.

Sometimes Catholic parents were married without the proper dispensations from the Church. If you happen to be in this situation, now may be the time to see if this situation can be corrected.

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Thoughts for Parents

As you ask for your child to be baptized you, as parents, are taking on the responsibility of safeguarding the flames of faith for your child. Parents are to be the first witnesses and teachers of the faith to their children.

The Vocation of Parents

Our Loving God has given you a great vocation. As a parent you are called by God to show forth His love and concern. You have been chosen to establish a family, a domestic church, a place where each person can discover and live his or her true identity as a son or daughter of God.

To accomplish this:

- ***Be united in prayer***
- ***Be nourished and healed in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation***
- ***Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation***
- ***Give service to each member of the family***
- ***Live a life based on the Ten commandments and the Beatitudes***
- ***Contribute support of the Church, spiritually, socially, and financially***
- ***Be registered and active members of the Church community***
- ***Be married in the Catholic Church***
- ***Read Scripture and spiritual books***
- ***Keep learning about the faith at every stage of their life***

The Role of the Sponsor

Being a sponsor carries with it a very precious responsibility. A sponsor needs to form a spiritual relationship that lasts a lifetime.

A sponsor must be someone who can share a strong Catholic faith with your child. This person must pray for your child and help you to nurture the faith of your child.

The title of godparent is not an honor to be awarded to someone based on friendship or relationships but on the faith they live and wish to share with your child.

Some Suggestions to help develop this relationship

Celebrate the anniversary of Baptism by sending a card or calling or visiting the child on this special day.

Remember holidays with religious gifts – a Bible, a Rosary, religious jewelry, religious books

Be a model of fidelity to the precious gift of the Catholic faith.

Requirements for Sponsors

To be a sponsor one must be:

A baptized Catholic who has been confirmed and has received Holy Eucharist and is at least 16 years of age

A practicing Catholic who is leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

Not the mother or father of the baptized

One sponsor is sufficient, there may be two.

Christian Witness

Along with a qualified sponsor, a baptized and believing member of another Christian denomination may stand as witness to the Baptism.

Those NOT eligible to be a baptismal sponsor:

Those not baptized; Members of non-Christian faiths;

Baptized Catholics who have not received either of the sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation; Baptized Catholics who have joined another faith and have not formally returned to the Catholic Church; Catholics who are not married according to the laws of the Church

Requirements Prior to Baptism

Please inform us of the dates you've selected for the baptismal seminar and baptism. If parents and godparents attend a Baptismal seminar at their home parish, they must provide a certificate/letter of attendance and a signed testimonial letter. A copy of the child's birth certificate is needed. **All requirements must be received by the church's office at least 1 week prior to the scheduled baptism. There is a customary \$50.00 donation for baptism.**



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Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Proposed Date of Baptism _____

Criteria to Serve as Godparent for Baptism

1. The Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;
2. The Godparent must be at least sixteen years of age;
3. If married, the Godparent must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Person may not be cohabiting, or living together without marriage.
4. If not previously attended, the Godparent will attend a Baptismal Seminar in preparation for this Baptism.

Statement of Godparent

“I meet the above stated criteria to serve as a Godparent, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith.”

By signing below, the proposed Godparent solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.

Godparent's Signature: _____

Godparent's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Pastor or Delegate (In Parish where Baptism is to be Celebrated)

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Parental Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Proposed Date of Baptism _____

Statement of Catholic Parent(s)

“It is my sincere hope and intention to raise my child in the Catholic faith and to do all in my power to assure through my own efforts that my child practices and grows in the Catholic faith.”

By signing below, the Catholic parent(s) solemnly swear that the statement above is a true and correct indication of their intentions.

(Must be signed by at least one Catholic parent.)

Father's Signature: _____

Father's Name Printed: _____

Mother's Signature: _____

Mother's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Pastor or Delegate (In Parish where Baptism is to be Celebrated)