

Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Infant Baptism Guidelines

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source, and it is the offer of salvation for all people. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of their parents, godparents, and of the Church. (see *Code of Canon Law*, c. 842, 849; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1231, 1263, 1265, 1267-1270)

General Information

- Parents are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism as soon after birth as possible. Except in the case of necessity, the church is the usual place of baptism.
- In order for the child to be baptized, there must be a reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith.
- A record of the child's baptism is maintained where the baptism was conferred – Parish of Baptism. The reception of subsequent sacraments must be recorded on this document by the Parish of Baptism.
- Your regular financial contribution to this parish makes it possible for us to have no fees for the baptism classes or materials.

Baptismal Preparation

- Contact the parish office and speak to the Baptism Coordinator, expressing your desire to have your child baptized.
- If you are not already known by one of the parish priests you will be asked to make an appointment to meet one of them prior to beginning baptism preparation.
- Parents must be registered at the parish for at least three months before seeking baptism for their child.
- Parents who are new to the area should contact the Baptism Coordinator regarding baptism for their child.
- Parents must attend some manner of faith formation prior to having their child baptized. This will consist of two baptism preparation sessions at the parish. Parents' commitment and openness to baptism preparation will help develop the faith-life of your child as they mature.
 - Session One: A new creation and nurturing the life of grace. (90 minutes)
 - Session Two: Church tour and the Rite of Baptism. (60 minutes)
- Baptism formation / preparation classes are scheduled on a monthly basis or by appointment with the Baptism Coordinator.

- It is recommended that parents attend the baptism preparation sessions prior to the birth of their child.
- If parents or godparents have attended a baptism formation within the past four years, the class does not have to be repeated. If more than four years have elapsed, parents and godparents are asked to attend classes.

Child

- The information in these guidelines applies only to the Baptism of an infant or young child.
- Children to be baptized who have reached the age of reason (7 years old) receive a different preparation.
- Children who have been baptized in other Christian communities will be prepared to make a profession of faith into the Catholic Church.

Parents

- In order that a child be baptized, it is necessary that the parents' consent, or at least one of the parents, or someone legally standing in their place, and that there be reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith.
- Parents must complete the baptism information form and submit a copy of the child's birth certification with the completed form to the Baptism Coordinator.
- Parents' marital status will be clarified during the baptismal preparation process. Baptism is not denied if the parents are unmarried or not married in the Roman Catholic Church. However, there may be reason to postpone baptism if the parents are not practicing the Faith, or have no intention of living a Catholic life in harmony with the Gospel.
- If your marital status is not in harmony with the Roman Catholic understanding of sacramental marriage, please inquire as to how the parish may help you enter into a proper sacramental marriage, or if need be, seek a declaration of nullity by the Church.

Godparents

- The child may only have one or two godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, one must be male and the other female.
- In order for someone to be eligible as a godparent they must:
 - be chosen by the parents,
 - have the ability to fulfill the role,
 - be at least 16 years of age, and a confirmed Catholic, who:
 - has already received the Most Holy Eucharist,
 - is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including a valid Marriage within the Catholic Church),
 - will be a good role model for the one being baptized,
 - and be neither the father nor the mother of the child.

- Godparents must attend the baptism preparation sessions or have proof that they have attended classes at another parish.
- Godparents must complete the Sponsor Verification form and have it signed by their pastor.

Christian Witness

- A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a 'Christian witness' (not a godparent) provided that there is a least one Roman Catholic godparent (who meets the criteria for a godparent).
- A non-baptized person cannot be a witness.
- A Roman Catholic not in good standing with the Church (i.e. not validly married within the Catholic Church) may not serve as a 'Christian witness.'

Other Parishes

- Non-parishioners are required to take their baptismal preparation in the parish in which they reside and then receive a testimonial letter from their pastor to have their child baptized in another parish.
- Pastors normally have sacramental jurisdiction only over their own parishioners. So, permission is needed from both the home parish and the parish where the baptism will occur.

Ceremony

- Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Mass (approximately 12:15 P.M.).
- Baptism will not be celebrated during Lent.

Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Baptism Information

Please attach copy of birth certificate.

Date of Baptism requested: _____

1. **Full name of child to be baptized:** _____

City and State of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

2. **Family information**

Father's name: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's full maiden name: _____ Religion: _____

Home Phone number: _____ Cell number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

3. Have the parents been married in the Catholic Church? _____ Wedding date: _____

Where did marriage take place? _____ Officiant: _____

Are the parents still married? _____ Are both parents consenting to the baptism? _____

4. Are you registered as parishioners at St. Mary's Cathedral? Yes No

If yes, how long have you attended St. Mary's? _____ What Mass does your family normally attend? _____

Why are you seeking baptism for your child? _____

5. Have you had any other children baptized? Yes No If yes, how many? _____

Names of other children? _____

Dates baptized? _____

6. **Godparent Information:**

Both godparents must be baptized. At least one of the godparents must be a baptized, confirmed, practicing Roman Catholic. The godparents share with the parents the responsibility for raising the child in the Catholic faith. If a godparent is not Catholic, please list the religion in which they are baptized.

Name of Godfather: _____ Religion _____

Name and location of parish: _____ Diocese: _____

Name of Godmother: _____ Religion: _____

Name and location of parish: _____ Diocese: _____

In asking the Church to baptize my child, I accept the responsibility to try and raise my child in the faith, to accompany him or her to Sunday Mass when the age of reason is reached, to ensure he or she receives faith education, and to provide a loving, prayerful Christian family life to the best of my ability.

Father's signature

Mother's signature

Date

RETURN TO: Dr. Anne D. Roat c/o St. Mary Cathedral Parish Office, 1212 South Street, Lafayette, IN 47901
Phone: 765-607-4842, Fax: 765-742-8933, Email: aroat@parish.dol-in.org

Approved February 22, 2019

**Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Lafayette, Indiana**

SPONSOR VERIFICATION

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child’s Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship—one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life, and keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values, to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts which celebrate holy events...Christmas, Easter...and personal growth events.... graduation, first job, engagement (Gift suggestions: a bible, spiritual book, rosary, religious jewelry, gift certificate for religious goods/books, retreat opportunity.)

This is to certify that I, _____
Sponsor’s Name

a registered member of _____ in _____
Parish Name **City, State**

accept the invitation to be a sponsor for the sacrament of baptism / confirmation (circle one) of

Candidate’s name

I am an active participating Catholic as indicated below. In accepting this responsibility, I solemnly swear that the statements are true, so help me God!

- I am at least 16 years of age.
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- I attend Mass weekly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Penance regularly. (at least once a year, Catechism of the Catholic Church #2042)
- If married, I am in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.

I understand and accept the responsibility which I undertake as a Sponsor and I promise to be a support and example that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and I am prepared to assist the Candidate by my support, encouragement and prayer.

Sponsor’s Signature

PRIEST’S CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this sponsor candidate, upon their testimony above, and to the best of my knowledge, is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of Sponsor.

Parish Seal (must be present)

Priest Signature _____

Parish _____

Date _____

Please return this form to: Dr. Anne D. Roat c/o St. Mary Cathedral Parish Office, 1212 South Street, Lafayette, IN 47901;
Office: 765-607-4842; Fax: 765-742-8933; Email: aroat@parish.dol-in.org

**Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Verification for Christian Witness
(Only a Baptized Christian can be a Witness)**

1. Please provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate.
2. If a copy of the Baptismal Certificate **cannot** be provided, please have the affidavit below completed by parents or a witness of your Baptism and signed by a Notary.

Name of Christian Witness: _____

Religion: _____

Address: _____

Was this person ever baptized? ____ yes ____ no

What is your relationship to the person whose name appears above? _____

When and where did this baptism take place?

Who were the godparents or sponsors? _____

Were you present at this baptism? ____yes____ no If not, how do you know that the baptism took place? _____

Will you sign this affidavit as evidence of the truth of your answers? ____ yes ____ no

Please print name

Signature of Affiant

Date

Signature of Notary Public

Date

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Office: 765-607-4842; Fax: 765-742-8933; Email: aroat@parish.dol-in.org