

GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM AT ST. PATRICK CHURCH – MILFORD, NH

We rejoice with you at the gift of your child and for your decision to begin the initiation process which will join your child to the family of God in the Catholic Church through the sacrament of Baptism. This pamphlet is offered to assist you with making preparations for your child's Baptism at Saint Patrick Parish.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Please call the parish office (603-673-1311) to begin the process.

PARENTS: The major requirement for the Baptism of a child is the sincere and faithful assurance given by the parents that they will practice their faith and will take an active role in the Catholic formation of their child as long as the child is under their roof. Particular attention needs to be given to participation in the weekly Sunday Mass and faith formation (religious education) when the child comes of age. Parents who ask to have their children baptized should be formally registered in the parish - complete a written registration form – in person or on line: saintpatrickmilfordnh.org

Parents who are registered at Saint Patrick will usually be expected to attend a Baptism Preparation Session with a trained leader couple. Please call the office to make arrangements. Parents who are not registered at St. Patrick's will need to: obtain written permission from their pastor to have the baptism take place here at St. Patrick's, attend a baptismal preparation class in their home parish, and produce a statement indicating their formation.

It is recommended, in consideration of the parents' convenience, that the class be attended before the child is born. Parents who have attended a Baptism Preparation in the past need not attend another Baptism class.

GODPARENTS: Godparents should be chosen because they are practicing their Catholic religion and in good standing in their church, over the age of 16, and who are fully initiated ... that is ... have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and who have agreed to be good Christian examples for the child and assume the responsibility of assisting parents in their duties as Catholic parents.

Each child to be baptized must have one man and one woman for godparents. Ordinarily, godparents are practicing Catholics or at least one must be a practicing Catholic and the other godparent a Christian witness (baptized in another Christian religion).

If the godparent(s) are not from Saint Patrick Parish, they must obtain a signed "Sponsor Certificate" from their own pastor testifying to their good standing and eligibility to act as a Godparent. This "Sponsor Certificate" needs to be received by the parish office before a date for the Baptism is scheduled.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated in Saint Patrick Church outside of mass, individually, and usually on a Saturday (other days are available if necessary). After all documents are obtained, the Pastor will contact the parents to schedule the date and time of the Baptism.

Please arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled time of your child's baptism. Picture taking is allowed shall be respectful of the ritual.

Godparent(s) who cannot be present for the baptism may have a proxy stand in for them.

While there is no fee required, many parents choose to make a free will offering to the Priest.