



# St. Luke Catholic Church

## Parent Baptism Information Guidelines

For Children Up to 6 Years of Age

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Congratulations! We warmly welcome you and your family to the St. Luke parish community for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of your child. What a joyous occasion in your life and in the life of the Church.

*Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213-1284.)*

**Please read carefully our guidelines in order to better facilitate your celebration.**

1. If you live within the parish boundaries of St. Luke or are a registered member of our parish community then there are no further permissions necessary.
  2. **Before we can schedule the baptism for your child** the following documentation is to be received in the parish office. Please do not make arrangements with out of town guests to attend until a date has been scheduled by St. Luke.
    - ✠ Completed Registration Form.
    - ✠ Copy of child's birth certificate or other verification of birth.
    - ✠ Baptism Preparation Class proof of attendance for parents and godparents (if attended at another parish).
    - ✠ Letters of Permission and Good Standing for parents and godparents (if you do not live within the boundaries of St. Luke. Contact your own parish office to obtain their guidelines for this this.
    - ✠ Completed Baptism Sponsor Covenant Form for each godparent.
  3. Only one godparent is required. If two are chosen, one of each gender is to be selected. To be qualified to serve as a godparent, a person must:
    - ✠ Be a Catholic who has received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. (Sacraments of Initiation)
    - ✠ Live a life of faith befitting the role of godparent.
    - ✠ If the godparent is married, the marriage must be a marriage recognized by the Roman Catholic Church as valid.
    - ✠ Be older than 16 years.
    - ✠ Not be the mother or father of the child.
    - ✠ Sign the Sponsor Covenant Form.
    - ✠ Have attended a baptismal preparation program.
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### Proxies

If godparent(s) cannot be present at the Baptism, proxies can be designated to answer the parts of the godparents during the ceremony itself. They should meet the same qualifications as godparents but do not have to take classes or fill out the Covenant Form. They will be listed in baptismal record as “proxies”.

4. Baptisms are held after any of the regular weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil – 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Families are asked to arrive 20 minutes prior to your scheduled Mass.
5. There are *no fees* for having your child baptized. However, at your discretion, if you would like to offer a gift specifically to the celebrant of the sacrament you may do so.
6. It is customary for the child to wear white, but not mandatory.
7. During the Rite of Baptism, the celebrant will ask the parents if they are prepared to raise their child in the faith by following the commandments. Godparents will also be asked if they are ready to support the parents in this privilege and responsibility. This requires that you know what is being asked of you and are prepared to live that out with the help of God and His Church.