

Common Questions and Answers

What should my child come dressed in?

- ⇒ White is the color of baptism. Most parents will have some type of baptismal outfit to put on their child. Children are to come already dressed for Baptism in their outfit.

Can I take pictures?

- ⇒ Yes, just ask the priest or deacon where photographers should stand.

Can I request a priest or deacon?

- ⇒ Typically each priest and deacon here at St. Charles will celebrate Baptisms a few times in a 3 month cycle. The parish secretary should have the schedule.

What time should we show up?

- ⇒ We suggest showing up AT LEAST by 1:15PM in order to receive instructions from the priest or deacon. (This also gives parents time to take care of any last-minute accidents). There is a noon mass at St. Charles you may choose to attend with your family.

What are the seating arrangements?

- ⇒ Each priest or deacon will instruct families where to sit for the Baptism.

Is there a fee for Baptism?

- ⇒ There is no fee to have your child baptized, but it is common practice to make a monetary gift to the priest or deacon who celebrates the Sacrament with you and your family.



Dear Parent(s),

Congratulations to you on receiving God's gift to you in your child and thank you for entering the journey of faith with your child. Children are one of the greatest blessings to their parents. It is through the eyes of children that Jesus invites us to see God's created world. As much as you'll be able to teach your child throughout the course of his or her life, he or she will also be one of your greatest teachers.

Inside of this booklet, you'll find information about Baptism in the Catholic Church. Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:30P with few exceptions. Please reach out to our parish office at 440-884-3030 to schedule your child's Baptism.

May God Bless you,

The Pastoral Staff at St. Charles Borromeo Parish

St. Charles Borromeo Parish
5891 Ridge Road
Parma, Ohio 44129

Scheduling Baptisms here at St. Charles

- Baptisms are scheduled most Sundays during the year at 1:30 P.M.
- Should be a reasonable hope that child will be raised in the Catholic faith.
- Registration for Baptism must be made with the Parish office
- “Private” Baptisms are not normally scheduled as Baptism is a public celebration wherein a child becomes a Child of God and a member of the Church Community.
 - Special arrangements, on an individual basis, need to be made directly with a parish priest or deacon.
- Sponsor certificates need to be obtained from the Godparent(s) or Christian Witness from the Church they attend.
 - The certificates should be given to the parish at least 2-weeks prior to the scheduled Baptism.
- Kindly respond to emails or phone calls from our parish secretary who will insure the proper spelling of names on documents.

Parent’s Responsibility

- The Church instructs that parent(s) are the primary educators of their children. Parent(s) should be actively practicing their faith, giving witness that they are living lives in harmony with the Gospel.
- Your marital status will be clarified during the preparation time. Catholic parents should be testifying to the importance of their faith by living in a Sacramental Marriage that is recognized by the Church.
- If the status of your marriage is not in harmony with Catholic teaching, please inquire with a priest or deacon as to how your marriage can be recognized so as to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage. This may involve the convalidation of your marriage.

Qualifications for Godparent(s)

- Fully Initiated Catholics (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)
- Registered at a parish and attending Mass weekly
- At least 16 years old
- If married, must be married in the Church (Sacramental Marriage)
- Trying to live as a disciple of Jesus
- There must be at least one Godparent
 - If two, one male and one female
- Parent(s) cannot also be Godparent(s)
- **Must obtain sponsor letter from their home parish**

Qualifications for a Christian Witness

- Christian witness is a practicing member of another Christian Church
 - This is not a former Catholic who is practicing another faith
 - He or she must be Baptized
- There can only be one Christian witness (although there doesn’t have to be one)
- At least 16 years old



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