



St. Joseph Church

Sacrament of Baptism

My Dear Parents:

We welcome you and rejoice with you as you welcome a new life into the world, and in a short time, into the Catholic Church.

Baptism is the foundation of all the sacraments and the most important day of your child's life. Baptism is the beginning of your child's journey to their Heavenly Father, and during this time of preparation we hope to aid you in giving your child the support and guidance he or she will need to live a life in Christ.

From the earliest times it has been the practice of the Church to administer the sacrament of Baptism to infants. Parents very naturally want to hand on to their child their own faith and the values that flow from their faith. Baptism marks the beginning of this new life in faith.

Pope John Paul II calls the family the Domestic Church, the Christian home where the child begins to experience life as part of a community of families called the Church. At Baptism, you the parents, and godparents, along with the whole Christian community, take upon yourselves an important responsibility. You each promise to make the Church and the world a place that will offer your newly baptized child the love and support needed to grow to full Christian adulthood.

Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life and should serve as role models in the Catholic Faith. Godparents should support not only the child but also you, the parents, as you raise your child in the faith. In their role as godparents, they represent the larger Church community; hence, being a godparent is not only an honor, but a tremendous responsibility. Because of the promises godparents will make at your child's baptism, they should be carefully chosen.

In recognizing the importance of the godparents and their duties, the Church provides guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children. The godparents you select must meet the requirements set forth by the Catholic Church.

Please review the following requirements and fill out all of the attached forms.

You will find a checklist on the last page of this packet. It will help you to be sure you are ready for your child's Baptism. Once you have turned in all required paperwork and it has been reviewed, we will then schedule you for Baptismal Preparation Class.

We look forward to walking with you through this process of preparation and to joyfully celebrating that special day when you present your child to God the Father in the Sacrament of Baptism.

***In Chris
Fr. Greg Cormier***

Sacrament of Baptism Requirements

Baptismal Preparation Class

Once the paperwork and requirements in this packet are completed, we will schedule an appointment for a Baptismal Preparation Class. Baptism Preparation Classes are *required for first-time parents and Godparents* and all parents and godparents who have not attended a Baptism Preparation Class within two years prior to the date of the birth of the child.

Godparents

Godparents play an important role in your child's spiritual life and should serve as role models in the Catholic Faith. Godparents should support not only the child but also you, the parents, as you raise your child in the faith. In their role as godparent, they represent the larger Church community; hence, being a godparent is not only an honor, but a tremendous responsibility. Because of the promises godparents will make at your child's baptism, they should be carefully chosen. Godparents must meet the requirements set forth by the Catholic Church.

In recognizing the importance of the godparents and their duties, the Church has provided the following guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children.

- ◆ Must be at least 16 years old and mature enough to understand, accept and carry out their duties as a godparent.
- ◆ Must be living an exemplary life consistent with the faith and morals taught by the Roman Catholic Church.
- ◆ Up to two godparents are allowed. They must not be of the same gender.
- ◆ One godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church and meet the following guidelines:
 - 1) Must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
 - 2) Must actively practice his or her faith by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
 - 3) If married, is validly married in the Catholic Church.
- ◆ The second godparent may be a non-Catholic, baptized Christian and will be a Christian Witness to the sacrament. A person who is baptized Catholic but does not fulfill the requirements to be a godparent is not eligible to be a Christian witness.

What if the parents are not legally married?

If the parents are unmarried, we can list the name of the father on the Baptismal certificate only after receiving one of the following from you.

- ◆ A copy of the State Certificate of Live Birth listing the father's name or
- ◆ A legal copy defined by Canon law 877, which reads "***the name of the father is to be entered if his paternity is either by some public document or by his own declaration in the presence of the parish priest and two witnesses.***" *This sworn statement must be notarized.*

What if one parent is not a Catholic?

In the event of a mixed religion marriage, the Catholic party must remember his/her commitment made to the Church at their wedding ceremony in promising to raise the children as Catholics. One parent must be a baptized Catholic.

Baptism Family Data Sheet

All name blanks must be the individual's complete legal name, as recorded on the individual's birth certificate. No initials or nicknames are acceptable. Incomplete names may delay registration. All blanks must be filled out.

Information About the Child

Full Baptismal Name of the Child _____

Date of Birth _____ City and State of Birth _____

Circle or Check Yes or No

Yes ___ No ___ Was your child baptized by anyone in an emergency?

Yes ___ No ___ Is your child adopted? If yes, enclose copy of adoption papers with packet.

Information about the Father

Father's Full Name

Physical Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Family's Home Telephone Number

Father's & Mother's

Father's Cellular Number

Father Sacramental Info—Check Yes or No

___ Catholic ___ Protestant or
___ Other _____

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Baptism?

___ Yes ___ No Received First Holy Communion?

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Confirmation?

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Matrimony?

___ Yes ___ No Is it a Sacramental Marriage
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

___ Yes ___ No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

___ Yes ___ No Are you the birth father?

___ Yes ___ No Are you named as the "birth father"?

___ Yes ___ No Baptismal Certificate Provided

Information about the Mother

Mother's Full Maiden Name

Physical Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

Family's Roman Catholic Church Parish

Email Address Family's

Mother's Cellular Number

Mother Sacramental Info—Check Yes or No

___ Catholic ___ Protestant or
___ Other _____

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Baptism?

___ Yes ___ No Received First Holy Communion?

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Confirmation?

___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Matrimony?

___ Yes ___ No Is it a Sacramental Marriage
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

___ Yes ___ No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

___ Yes ___ No If Unmarried, will "birth" father
be named on State Certificate of Live Birth?

___ Yes ___ No Baptismal Certificate Provided

Godparents Data Sheet and Promise

Godparents must meet the requirements set by the Catholic Church on page 2 of this packet.

Information about the Godfather

Godfather's Full Name

Religion: ___ Catholic ___ Protestant or
 ___ Other _____
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Baptism?
___ Yes ___ No Received First Holy Communion?
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Confirmation?
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Matrimony?
___ Yes ___ No Is it a Sacramental Marriage
 blessed by a Priest or Deacon?
___ Yes ___ No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
 and all Holy Days of Obligation?
___ Yes ___ No Baptismal Certificate Provided

Information about the Godmother

Godmother's Full Name

Religion: ___ Catholic ___ Protestant or
 ___ Other _____
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Baptism?
___ Yes ___ No Received First Holy Communion?
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Confirmation?
___ Yes ___ No Received Holy Matrimony?
___ Yes ___ No Is it a Sacramental Marriage
 blessed by a Priest or Deacon?
___ Yes ___ No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
 and all Holy Days of Obligation?
___ Yes ___ No Baptismal Certificate Provided

Godparent's Promise:

The Godparents of the child are to sign and date the following promise. If the Godparents live out of town, do your best to get the signatures before your Baptismal Preparation Class, even if you have to mail this form to them. Their signature is required.

I promise to God and to His Holy Roman Catholic Church that I meet all the requirements regarding the role and duty of assisting the parents of this child. I attend Holy Mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation. If married, it is a Sacramental Marriage blessed by a Priest or Deacon. If unmarried, I am living a life of celibate chastity, and living according to the Law of Christ and His Holy Roman Catholic Church, so help me God.

_____/____/_____
Signature of the Godfather Date

_____/____/_____
Signature of the Godmother Date

Notes (for office use only): _____

Plan to attend Holy Baptism on this date/time

Your Baptism Checklist

Once you have completed all forms in this packet, obtained all of the necessary documents, and clarified any questions regarding the requirements in this packet with the parish office, you are then ready to submit your paperwork and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. Filling out all of the information as indicated, making sure all requirements for selecting godparents have been met, and that all required certificates and documents are ready for submission, will insure smooth processing of all of the paperwork, the prompt scheduling of your child's Baptism.

These instructions are in compliance with the Catechism of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, published in 1994, and with the Revised Code of Canon Law, published in 1999.

Final checklist before calling for your submitting your paperwork:

- _____ All blanks on the forms have been filled out. Names are filled out as they are legally and as they appear on birth certificates.
_____ The guidelines for selecting the godparents have been followed.

The following certificates/documents have been obtained:

- _____ Baptism certificate of the mother and/or _____ Baptism certificate of the father
_____ Copy of child's State Certificate of Live Birth or copy of Sealed Hospital Certificate of Live Birth
_____ Baptismal Certificate for each godparent from the church where they were baptized.
_____ That church will seal the certificate and make sure it has the appropriate notations on the back.
_____ Copy of adoption papers if child is adopted
_____ If the parents are unmarried, name of the father can be listed on birth certificate only after receiving one of the following:
• A copy of the State Certificate of Live Birth listing the father's name or
• A legal copy defined by Canon law 877, which reads ***'the name of the father is to be entered if his paternity is either by some public document or by his own declaration in the presence of the parish priest and two witnesses.'*** This sworn statement must be notarized.
_____ The properly filled out forms in this packet, along with all certificates and any required legal documents, if necessary, are all together and ready to bring to the parish.

_____ Baptism date/time

***We look forward to the final step in this journey with you, the Baptism of your baby.
We are eager to welcome him or her into the Catholic faith
and into the parish family of St. Joseph!***