



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM GUIDELINES

Catholics are brought into the Church through the saving waters of Baptism. Through this first Sacrament, we come to participate in the full and rich sacramental life of the Church and into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We offer this step-by-step process for those seeking to celebrate Baptism at the Basilica of St. Josaphat so that good order may be followed and that the experience will be meaningful for all who participate.

INFANTS & YOUNG CHILDREN:

Step 1: Parish Registration

- Parents must be registered parishioners at the Basilica. They must give witness to their practice of faith by regular Sunday Mass attendance and support of the Church. This policy applies even if only one parent is Catholic.
- If you are not a registered member of any parish, but regularly attend Sunday Mass at the Basilica, please note this in your Baptism Registration form.
- If you are registered at another parish, or are not registered at a parish but regularly attend Sunday Mass elsewhere, please seek baptism at your parish first unless you have a serious reason not to do so.

Step 2: Baptism Registration

- Fill out the “**Infant Baptism Registration Form**” found at <https://thebasilica.org/baptism> and the “**Godparent Certificate**” for each Catholic Godparent. The Godparent certificate will need to be filled out by the Catholic Godparent’s parish(es) and returned to:

The Basilica of St. Josaphat
Attn: Tom Holschuh, Director of Religious Education
2333 S. 6th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

- There is a **\$25 Baptism Processing Fee** required to offset the cost of the preparation session, white garment, and candle. Please drop this off at the parish office or mail with note indicating family name and “Baptism registration.” If the fee is a hardship, please let us know.

Step 3: Baptism Preparation Session

- For **parents seeking baptism for a child for the first time**, a formal preparation session is required before the baptism. You will indicate what time works best for you on your registration form.

Step 4: Choosing Godparents

- Choosing a Godparent for your child is very important in the eyes of the Church. This individual is seen as a life-long spiritual guide and mentor in the baptized child's life. For this reason, there are several requirements in choosing a Godparent:
 - Must be 16 years of age or older.
 - Be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church. This means that they have already received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and are an active member in their parish community. Each Catholic Godparent is required to submit a form completed by their pastor indicating parish membership and participation (see "Godparent Certificate").
 - Cannot be one of the child's parents.
- Typically two people are chosen to serve as Godparents (If two, there must be one male and one female). A baptized person who belongs to another Christian tradition (i.e. Lutheran, Presbyterian, Non-denominational, etc.), may participate together with a Catholic Godparent. They are considered a "witness to the baptism."

Step 5: The Celebration of Baptism

- Baptism is typically celebrated in the Basilica Church on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, after the 12:00pm Sunday Mass (about 1:00pm).
- Please contact Tom Holschuh, Director of Religious Education, to inquire about available dates.

OLDER CHILDREN:

- When older children are presented for Baptism, parents are obliged to follow the same policies as outlined above regarding parish membership and instruction. In addition, some special instruction may be needed in order to help the child appreciate the special sacramental action of Baptism in his/her life.
- Children who have reached the age of reason (around 7 years old) who are seeking baptism will also be prepared to receive all of the Sacraments of Initiation together (also including Eucharist and confirmation). Preparation for the Sacraments typically takes place through the BasiliKids program. Contact Tom Holschuh for more information.

ADULTS:

- Adults seeking Baptism participate in the program for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA, a year-long process inviting participants to explore the foundations of the Catholic faith, culminating at the Easter Vigil at which the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist) are conferred. Contact the Director of Religious Education (414-645-5623 x 223; tholschuh@thebasilica.org).