

SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT

Guidelines for Baptism during COVID-19 Pandemic

Blessings on your new baby!

The pandemic of 2020 has disrupted and threatened almost every aspect of our social lives but it could not triumph over the procreation of new life in our midst. We are so delighted that you are welcoming your newborn child into the life of faith and our community of the Catholic Church. We also want to assure you and all of our parishioners that we take very seriously our responsibility to protect the life and health of all parishioners. However, these precautions will admittedly impact the celebration of your child's baptism.

We have developed these guidelines for the celebration of baptism in light of the covid-19 pandemic in cooperation with the CDC, Ohio Governor DeWine, and the bishops of the state of Ohio. Please refer to our parish website (www.saint-Albert.org) for the most up-to-date guidelines. Anyone unable to cooperate or uncomfortable with all of these guidelines is asked to refrain from attending a baptism in our church at this time.

We thank you in advance for doing your best to cooperate with all of these guidelines because they are the best we can propose considering our obligation and responsibility to the common good, to the wider community, to our government and health officials, and our church authorities. Because of the current restrictions on our public/social interactions it is understandable that some families may prefer to delay the baptism of their children until the time that these awkward interventions are no longer required.

Baptism Guests are Worshippers in our Church

Anyone desiring to enter the church for your child's baptism will be asked to observe several public health and sanitary precautions known widely as "social distance". Therefore,

- The number of people permitted in church is limited to those who can fit into the designated "box seats" marked on the pews with yellow tape (approx. 250 people)
- **face coverings** are to be worn inside buildings by everyone older than two years of age (please bring your own)
- **sanitization of hands** upon entering the building - sanitizer is available at the entrances (you should carry personal sanitizer with you)
- **social distance** while seated (sitting only within the yellow marked box seats) and during standing/waiting in line (floors are marked in red)
- no use of kneelers, no physical contact with non-family members, no socializing in the church, etc
- All worshipers are required to leave the church immediately following the service and refrain from congregating or socializing in church

Virtual broadcast of your child's baptism

Our church is equipped with a very modest cell phone stand located in the first pew of the church if you would like to broadcast or record your baptism on Facebook Live or some other streaming service that you may have available.

The Baptism preparation/registration

- First time parents are required to complete a baptismal preparation program. This program can be arranged through our parish office (440-237-6760) under the leadership of Deacon Ted Bizon.
- After the baptismal preparation program has been completed couples are welcome to speak with a priest/deacon at our parish to arrange for the baptism of their child.
- During this pandemic we are restricted to baptizing one child (or the children of one family) at a time.
- We will celebrate baptism following any of our weekend masses (as of June 15, 2020 that is 4:00 PM Saturday, 7:30 AM and 11:30 AM Sunday).
- Once the date of baptism has been established by the Priests/Deacon, parents can complete the baptism registration form found on our parish website www.saint-albert.org under the “sacraments” tab.

The Celebration of Baptism

- The ministers of Baptism (Priests and Deacons) will be practicing sanitary hygiene and social distancing in regards to face covering, the pouring of water, imposition of hands, anointing with oil, etc.
- Parents, child, and sponsor(s) must be present for the baptism at the scheduled time. Other guests and family members are welcome to attend the baptism and they must observe the guidelines for social distancing.
- Those who are attending the baptism will be asked, to the extent that they are able, to stand around the baptismal font for the 20-minute baptismal liturgy.

After the Baptism

- Because of the need for the “crew“ at Saint Albert to sanitize the church after every liturgical celebration, the families of baptized children will be limited to a very short period of time for pictures following the baptism.
- In general, we cannot at this time encourage socializing inside the church
- Your cooperation with these guidelines will assist us in doing our best job for all of our parishioners.
- Thank you for your cooperation