

Baptism Information Page

Parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation class before the Baptism can take place (Godparents are encouraged to attend also). Parents must register by filling out an information form and will be contacted by the Baptismal team to arrange a meeting and schedule preparation classes.

Early registration is encouraged. Consider attending the class before your baby arrives.

Please call the Cluster 7 office to make arrangements and to register @ 924-7104.

The preparation class includes a video presentation on the Sacrament of Baptism. Topics also include the importance of prayer and spirituality that are a necessary part of supporting the newly baptized along the faith journey. An explanation of the Rite of Baptism as well as a time for questions and answers concludes the preparation.

Canon Law Requirements for Godparents for Baptism

There seems to be some confusion when Godparents are being considered between wanting to have one's best friend or another relative or acquaintance be the God parent.

Catholics must have fully initiated Catholic as godparents; that is Godparents in a Catholic baptism needs to be a practicing Catholic and also needs to have received the three sacraments of Initiation, Baptism First Eucharist, and Confirmation. A Godparent cannot be expected to mentor a Godchild if the Godparent himself/herself hasn't received all of the sacraments of initiation.

A person who is not a Catholic but is a member of a Christian Church with a valid baptism and who has received that valid Baptism in their own church can act as a Christian Witness for the child. In that case, the other sponsor needs to be a fully initiated practicing Catholic.

All Godparents (or the single Christian Witness) also have to have attained the age of 16. When there are two Godparents, one has to be male and the other female.

Also, a Godparent is a permanent choice. In other words if you have a falling out with the person or persons you select to be a Godparent, their name cannot be removed from the official record of the child's baptism. Another consideration when making a choice of Godparent.

Please consult with the Pastor before asking the person you want as a Godparent to be certain that you have the correct information in order to make an appropriate choice.

Canon Law Citation:

SPONSORS Can. 872 Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant

for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function; 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause; 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on; 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. §2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism

Responsibilities of Godparents

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship -one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

Godparents make a promise to God, to the parents, to the child, and to the Church. You proclaim aloud a covenant to witness gospel attitudes and values in your life and in the relationships that will develop with this child.

You proclaim that you will be a Christian community for the child being baptized. You say you will surround this child with care concern, support, faith, trust, challenge and compassion as they mature.

There are many special ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

Ø Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit, a call, or a card.

Ø As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life.

Ø Encourage a consistent life of faith.

Ø Participate in or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments.

Ø Be supportive of your godchild'

s parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child. Ø And most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your godchild through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

Prayers for New Parents

Our parish blessing for new parents:

We rejoice with you in the birth of your child. The people of this church bless you and your baby and praise God for the great love and care that brought this infant into being.

May the Lord fill you with faith, with courage, knowledge, and patience.

May the Lord give you strength for the days ahead and all the new things they hold.

May the Lord be with you and live in the home you make for this child.

A Newborn's Prayer

Oh Father, You create us with love. We are individual as the footprints of newborn babies. Our gifts are varied, our places to serve so numerous, and yet, we are new, we are children, we are people, we are humanity. We are in Your likeness.

You create us and care for us with a love more joyous and full than that of a mother for her first born. You wrap us in the soft blanket of Your perpetual love and mercy, leading each one to new discoveries, new awareness; always reaching out, calling and encouraging us to come ever close, to be created anew – again and again. We come to see Your face and know Your loving touch.

How helpless we are, how fragile. We are weak and You are our strength, our nourishment, our forgiving and loving Father.

Lord, may we come to depend upon You as totally and completely as an infant depends upon its parents.