

## INFORMATION REGARDING BAPTISMS

**1. Dates & Times:** At St. Mary's, Kutztown, Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of the month at the 11 a.m. Mass. There is only one exception. *During Lent, there are no Baptisms.* But, Baptisms may be celebrated on Easter regardless where it falls during the month.

**2. Godparents:**

**Role:** -to be a support to the parents in raising the child as a Catholic Christian.  
-to be a good example to the child of a mature Catholic Christian.

**Qualifications:** must have received the three initiation sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.  
-be an active participant in the parish.  
-The godparent must present a certificate of eligibility from his/her parish to the pastor before the Baptism. **WE MUST RECEIVE THIS CERTIFICATE ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.**  
-be at least 16 yrs. of age. Remember, the godparent is to be a mature model of faith for your child.  
-only one godparent of either sex is necessary. One of each sex is customary.

**Christian Witness:** If one Catholic godparent has been chosen, one Christian witness who is a good example to your child, a practicing Christian and a member of a Christian Church (not Catholic) is permissible. Witness should be of opposite gender.

**3. Preparation for the day:** Please fill out the Baptismal Information Sheet completely & return to the pastor three weeks before the Baptism. (or call the rest of the information into the pastor at 610 683-7443)

Call the pastor one week before the Baptism so that all concerned know that the Baptism will take place on schedule.

A pew (seats 8 adults) will be reserved for the parents, godparents, & immediate family. If any reserved seating near the font is necessary, let the pastor know before the day of Baptism & remind the usher when you get to the Church.

If you would like to hang a banner up near the font, tell the usher when you arrive at Church.

**4. Day of Baptism:** Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Mass to meet the pastor & greet the people in the gathering space.

If you are choosing Baptism by immersion, arrange the baptismal clothing ( & diaper) on the table near the font. Parish will provide the towels. Bring the baby in something that is easy to slip off.

To be true to the symbolism of the "white garment", all babies & children should wear white after the Baptism.

**5. Stipend:** An offering of \$35.

## Sponsor Certificate Request Form

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**CERTIFICATES** - Parishioners in full Communion with the Catholic Church may submit requests to receive sponsorship certificates (for the Rites of Baptism and Confirmation). Please allow two weeks to process requests. One is required:

- to attend Mass regularly.
  - to have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.
  - Married individuals should be validly married in the Catholic Church.
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please indicate recent mass attendance below:**

Week Number	Reason for not attending (if applicable)
This week	
1 week ago	
2 weeks ago	
3 weeks ago	
4 weeks ago	
5 weeks ago	
6 weeks ago	
7 week ago	
8 weeks ago	

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please allow two weeks to process requests, if possible.

## **BAPTISM SPONSOR SPECIFICS**

**Sponsors for Baptism must be practicing Catholics i.e., attending Mass regularly and supporting their parish as they are able. They should have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If they are married, they should have received the Sacrament of Matrimony i.e., married in the Catholic Church or with permission of the Catholic Church. If they are living with someone and they are not married, they are not eligible to be a sponsor.**

**They also must be a registered member of a parish. They must receive from their parish a letter of eligibility to be a sponsor at Baptism and present the letter before the baptism of the child to our parish.**

**A Christian Witness is a person who is a member of another Christian Church that celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism. He or she is not a Catholic who is not practicing their faith.**

**It is desirable that there be two practicing Catholics, one male and one female, as sponsors for Baptism. If this is not possible, then a Christian Witness can take the place of one of the Catholic sponsors.**

**Parents are asked to make sure that the persons they ask to sponsor their child have the proper qualifications.**