

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT ST. MARY'S

1. Congratulations! This is a happy occasion for your family and for the parish family at St. Mary's! Please call **610-683-6454** to schedule Baptism Preparation classes. This consists of two one-hour classes, usually held on a weekday evening.
2. **Dates and Times:** At St. Mary's, Baptism may be scheduled at various times to mutual convenience of the family and the parish. Private Baptisms (outside the context of the Mass) may be scheduled throughout the year including Lent. When celebrated within Mass, the 11am Mass on the first Sunday of the month may be a wonderful option to consider. PLEASE make certain that your desired Baptismal date is confirmed with the Parish before making travel or event plans.
3. To have Baptism here, families must be **registered parishioners** at our church, or have permission from the parish church at which you are registered.
4. **Before selecting Godparents**, please be certain to understand the role of the Godparent, as well as the requirements for a Catholic to be eligible as a Godparent.
 - Primary Role of Godparent: Support the parents in raising the child as an active Catholic Christian.
 - The Godparent is to be a good example to the child of a practicing Catholic Christian. They are making public promises during the Baptism!

Qualifications for a Godparent:

- Must have received the three initiation sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
 - Must be an active participant in a parish.
 - Must obtain a certificate of eligibility from their current parish to the pastor before the Baptism.

WE MUST RECEIVE THIS CERTIFICATE ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.
 - Must be at least 16 years of age. Remember, the godparent is to be a mature model of faith for your child.
 - Only one godparent of either sex is required, male or female. There may be two, one of each sex.
 - If a potential godparent is cohabitating with another person, they must be validly married in the Catholic Church or married with permission of the Catholic Church.
 - *In special circumstances*, upon approval of the pastor, a "Christian Witness" may be allowed to supplement the eligible Catholic Godparent. This may be a Protestant Christian, who is a practicing member of their church, will be a good example and will support the parents in raising the child in the Catholic faith. As such, the "Christian Witness" may not be a former Catholic, who has left practice of the faith. When chosen, the "Christian Witness" should be the opposite gender of the Catholic godparent.
 - There may be many dear people who attend the Baptism and who will have a special role in the child's life. However, we must observe the above requirements for the "official" godparent.
5. Please fill out the **Baptismal Information Sheet** completely and return it to the parish three weeks before the Baptism.

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

When the Baptism is scheduled within Mass, one or more pews (pew seats 8 adults) may be reserved for the parents, godparents, and immediate family. This is typically in the front row.

If any reserved seating near the font is necessary, please inform the parish in advance.
 6. **Day of Baptism:** When the Baptism occurs within Mass, please arrive at least 15 minutes early to meet the pastor and review the process. To be true to the symbolism of the "white garment," all babies and children should wear white after the Baptism.
 7. **Stipend:** The parish requests an offering of \$35 for the Baptism. Thank you!

BAPTISM INFORMATION SHEET

Child's info:

_____/_____
(last name) (first name) (middle name) (m/f)

Date of Birth: _____

Hospital (City & State): _____

Preferred Month of Baptism: _____

Father's info:

Last Name First, Middle name Religion

Mother's info:

Last Name (Maiden Name) First, Middle name Religion

Family info:

(street address, town, state, zip code)

(phone) (email)

Registered with the parish? (*registration is required*)

___ Yes / ___ No, I still need to

Desired Godparents:

(1) _____ Practicing Catholic

(2) _____ Practicing Catholic

See explanation of "Christian Witness" above if necessary and approved.