

INFORMATION REGARDING BAPTISMS

1. Please call 610-683-6454 to schedule Baptism Preparation classes. There are two classes, usually held in the evenings.
2. Dates and 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 of where it falls during the month.
3. Godparents: only one godparent of either sex is necessary. One of each sex is customary.

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, and Eucharist.
- must be an active participant in a parish.
- 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.**
- must be at least 16 yrs. of age. Remember, the godparent is to be a mature model of faith for your child.
- if married, married in the Catholic Church or with permission of the Catholic Church.

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

4. Preparation for the day: Please fill out the Baptismal Information Sheet completely and return it 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, and immediate family. If any reserved seating near the font is necessary, let the pastor know before the day of the baptism and 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.

5. Day of Baptism: Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Mass to meet the pastor and greet the people in the gathering space.
If you are choosing baptism by immersion, arrange the baptismal clothing (and 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 and children should wear white after the baptism.
6. Stipend: An offering of \$35.

**St. Mary's Church
14833 Kutztown Road
Kutztown, Pa 19530**

Dear Prospective Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor,

Congratulations! You may – and should – feel honored to be asked to be a sponsor. I trust it is your witness to the Catholic Faith that was the major reason you have been selected for this role. Before accepting, however, you should prayerfully and carefully consider the responsibilities and ramifications.

The role of godparent or sponsor does not demand that one be a canonized saint but if a sincere commitment and genuine effort to live the Catholic Faith are lacking, one does a serious disservice by publicly accepting a role model's position as a god parent or sponsor. We may ask ourselves.

“Will my own integrity allow me to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith expressed in words is also a faith in practice in my daily life?”

We know that family members or friends who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the sacraments or are married outside the church or are living with partners out of wedlock are often asked to serve as a godparent or sponsor. Should you be in such a position, we invite you to grasp this moment as a real opportunity for growth in the spirit and in your faith, if you choose to sign the form on the reverse side of this letter, you have the unique opportunity to make this a time of change, a moment of recommitment. You might resolve to sit down with a priest or with a family member or a friend who is a practicing Catholic and chart a new path in your life of faith.

Perhaps, for whatever reason, you are not ready for this. If you are not committed to the full, renewed practice of your faith, then by all means—and in all honesty—simply ask the relative or friend who has asked you to be godparent or sponsor to hold you excused. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God.

If I can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please call upon me. It would be a joy and privilege to walk with you at this time. Thank you for your consideration and prayers in responding to this request with sincerity and integrity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Walter T. Schaeffer –Pastor

Sacramental Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility

In accepting the responsibility of being a Godparent at Baptism or a Sponsor at Confirmation, I truthfully state the following:

- I am at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- I have received the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation) in the Catholic Church;
- I am living—and intend to continue living—in conformity with the law of the Catholic Church regarding marriage;
- I attend Mass every week on Sundays and holydays of obligation, and receive the sacraments of the church (Holy Eucharist and Confession) regularly;
- I understand and accept the responsibilities which I undertake at this time and promise to pay special attention to;

Name of Person to be Baptized or Confirmed

in his/her efforts to fully live in accordance with the spirit and the teachings of the Catholic Church. I am prepared to assist his/her parents or guardians in their duties by my support, encouragement and prayer.

Name of Applicant

Address, City, State, Zip

Phone Number(s)

I certify that the applicant is duly registered in our parish and according to our record and my knowledge, is eligible for service in the role of Godparent or Sponsor.

Signature of Pastor or his Authorized Delegate

Date

St Mary's Church, Kutztown, PA 19530 (610) 683-7443
Church and Location

Child's info: _____ / _____
 (last name) (first name) (middle name) (m/f) (date of birth- mm/dd/year)

 (hospital, town state) (preferred month of baptism)

Please indicate preferred method of Baptism: _____ immersion or _____ pouring

Father's info: _____
 (last name) (first, middle name) (religion)

Mother's info: _____
 (last name) (first, middle name) (maiden name) (religion)

Family info: _____
 (street address, town, state, zip code) (phone) – (home? cell?)

_____ @ _____
 (email address)

Registered with the parish? (*registration is required*) _____ yes / _____ no, I still need to

Godparent info: (1) _____ (2) _____
 (practicing catholic) (practicing catholic)

_____ _____
 (practicing Christian witness) (denomination)

Baptism is celebrated during 11 a.m. liturgy on the third Sunday of each month, except during Lent.