

St. Peter Planning Guide For Baptisms



St. Peter Catholic Church
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We welcome you to St. Peter Church for the Baptism of your child. This day will be the beginning of life in Christ and life in the Church for your child. We hope as well that it will be an opportunity for recommitment to your faith for yourselves.

Please keep the following information in mind in preparation for your child's baptism:

1. We ask that only the biological parents or legal guardian with documentation make the baptismal arrangements and that they be registered members of St. Peter.
2. Baptism of a child makes sense when one or both parents practice the Catholic faith regularly (by going to Mass on Sundays, praying, living in accord with the commandments). The preparation classes we offer have as their purpose to encourage you to reflect on your faith in Christ and the commitment to it that is implicit in your decision to have your child baptized. Please check the bulletin for the class dates. Parents are obligated to attend the class. Godparents are encouraged to attend if they are able to do so.
3. Children may be baptized without first having received catechism before they turn 7. After that, they should enter Religious Education to prepare them for Baptism and First Communion.
4. Parents who are not married or are not married in the Catholic Church are strongly encouraged to talk to a priest as soon as possible. Since your marital status affects your ability to practice your faith fully and receive the sacraments, it will also affect your ability to give a good example of Catholic life to your child.
5. Godparents must be Catholics who have been baptized and **confirmed** and they should be at least 16 years old. They should be practicing Catholics, going to Mass on Sundays and receiving Communion regularly. If married, they must be **married in the Catholic Church**. Godparents need an original "Sponsor Certificate" from the parish where they are registered indicating that they are qualified to serve as godparents.
6. At a minimum there must be one godparent. There are normally two godparents, one man and one woman. There may not be more than two godparents and only one man and one woman.
7. One non-Catholic Christian may be admitted as a witness to Baptism if there is only one godparent. This witness must be Baptized and the opposite gender as the godparent.
8. If one parent is unable to attend either the class or the baptism, we ask for a notarized letter from him/her authorizing the baptism of the child.
9. A date for the Baptism may be secured once the Registration Form and a copy of the child's Birth Certificate has been completed and turned in to the Parish Office.
10. Please attach a copy of the child's Birth Certificate to the Baptism Registration Form.
11. When completing the data for Baptism Register please remember the Place of Birth must have the city and state and Mother's maiden name must include first name.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should my child wear?

It is not necessary to purchase expensive Baptismal gowns, unless you so desire. A family heirloom gown is also acceptable. Otherwise, any white outfit will do.

Can we take pictures or video tape?

Yes, but we ask that the photographer/video doesn't interfere with the celebration of the sacrament. Time is given at the end for family photos to be taken.

What does it cost?

There is no "cost" or "charge" for conferring a sacrament. It is customary though to make an offering of gratitude to God and to the Church in honor of this special day in your child's life. Donations range from \$50.00-100.00.

What time does the Baptism take place?

Baptisms are held after the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday and families are encouraged to attend the Mass. Once Mass is over, the Church is clear of parishioners, and the Presider is ready the Baptism will begin.

Name of the Church where the Sponsor is a registered parishioner

Address, City, State, Zip of Church where the Sponsor is a registered parishioner

BAPTISM SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

Name of Sponsor: _____

Name of Candidate: _____

SPONSOR please read carefully and sign below as testimony that you fulfill the requirements to be a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism.

I am a registered member of the Catholic Church listed above. I participate in worship by attending Mass each Sunday and receive the other Sacraments regularly. (cc. 100-102)

I have received the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) when necessary. (c. 874, §1, 3^o; cf. 893, §2)

(If married) I am in a valid marriage, i.e. one that was witnessed by a Catholic Priest, in a Catholic Church, unless dispensed from the Catholic form of marriage by a Diocesan Bishop. (c. 1108, §1)

I am a practicing Catholic and give witness to my Catholic Faith and my belief in Jesus Christ, by frequent reception of the Eucharist, and by my good example and loving response to others. (cc. 210; 225, §§1-2)

I am or will be at least 16 years old at the time of the Sacramental celebration at which I wish to serve as a sponsor. (c. 874, §1, 2^o; cf. 893, §2)

I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the Christian example of my life.

I willingly practice Catholic Stewardship by offering my time, talent, and treasure in support of others, both through our parish community and in my daily life. (c. 209, §2; 222, §§1-2)

I am not a parent of the candidate whom I wish to sponsor for Baptism. (c. 874, §1, 5^o)

I realize and accept the serious responsibility I assume before God and the Church in becoming a Sacramental Sponsor. I promise to support the faith life of this candidate by my prayers and by the example of my daily life. By my signature I attest to the truth of these statements:

Signature of Sponsor _____

I attest that this individual is a registered parishioner as of _____ and to the best of my knowledge is eligible to act as a Sponsor.

Date: _____

Parish Seal

Rev _____

Pastor

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