

Baptism: God's Gift of New Life

The day of Baptism is a day to celebrate! For your child, Baptism, is a day of new life and grace, a day of sharing in the life of Jesus. For parents, godparents, and family, it is a day of pride and happiness. For the Christian community, it is a day of promise and of faith, a day to celebrate our Christian heritage.

Baptism is a precious gift given by God through the Church. Baptism is a sacrament. It is a gift that parents have the privilege of offering to their children. It is a gift meant to last a lifetime and beyond.

For this reason, we at Our Lady of Perpetual Help wish to help you prepare for this special celebration with understanding and deep respect for the gift of faith given to us. We wish to assist you in any way we can. As parents you are the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. Just as you have given so much attention to the physical and material preparation of your child, attention needs to be given to your child's growth in faith. We consider the celebration of a sacrament a very special time in the life of the entire parish community. We want everyone involved to have an understanding of their role and responsibilities. For this reason, we share with you the expectations and guidelines of our Baptismal program.

Baptismal Interview:

We urge parents to contact the Church Office (394-0314) at least three months prior to the birth in order to make arrangements for a home visit and interview with a member of the

pastoral staff. Prior to the visit you will receive the required forms to be completed.

It is very important that all of this be completed and signed as directed. We ask that you read very carefully the role of the godparent/sponsor before asking someone to take on this responsibility. If you have questions to ask regarding the godparents, these can be addressed at the interview. Please note: a Baptismal date will not be scheduled until the required forms are first received and completed in full.

Pre-Baptismal Seminar:

Both parents and godparents are expected to attend a seminar. The seminar is an opportunity to open yourselves to a deeper understanding of your call as parents and godparents. Becoming a parent is one of the most sacred calls and privileges in your life. Giving attention to your child's spiritual growth and well being as well as your own is so important in this time of preparation. The seminar is held on the third Monday of each month in the Day Chapel of our Church at 7:00 p.m. If a godparent lives out of town, he/she must attend a Baptismal seminar at his/her parish church and provide Our Lady of Perpetual Help with a letter verifying attendance.

Celebration of Baptism:

Baptisms take place on the fourth Sunday of the month following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. There are no Baptisms during Lent. You may choose to have your child baptized by the pouring of water or immersion.

Once your required forms are completed and returned to the Church Office, the parents and Godparents attended a baptismal seminar, and

you were interviewed, call the Church Office to schedule the Baptism.

Godparents:

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. The godparent will be entrusted with the responsibility to participate in your child's Christian life and education. This privilege offers the godparents the opportunity to develop a special relationship with your child. Godparents are so much more than the "gift-giver" of a child. In selecting godparents you are looking for qualities of faith and the practice of that faith within the church community.

Godparents, therefore, must be sixteen years old and be a fully initiated (received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and a practicing Catholic. If married, he/she needs to be married by a Catholic priest or deacon. He/she may not be cohabitating, living together without marriage. Godparents may not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.

A person baptized in another Christian faith, and is practicing that faith, may be a Christian witness – not a godparent. Only two godparents are permitted, a male and a female.

Choosing A Christian Name:

Choosing a Christian name is highly recommended. Names that would be offensive to our Christian faith cannot be chosen.

A Prayer of New Parents

*May the Lord fill us with faith,
with courage, knowledge, patience.*

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

*May the Lord be with us
and live in our home
all the days of our lives.
Amen.*

Checklist	
1. Parish registration completed and returned.	
2. Read baptism brochure.	
3. Godparents forms completed and returned.	
4. If parents, aren't married, Proof of Paternity completed, notarized and returned.	
5. Both parents & godparents attended Baptismal Seminar.	
5. Call to schedule baptism	

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