



**Infant Baptism
at
St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic
Church**

Welcome and congratulations on the arrival of your child!
We are honored to work with you during this time and to help you welcome your child into the Catholic Faith. The Sacrament of Baptism allows your child to participate in the Trinitarian life, and carries very special and important responsibilities to you as a parent. We want to walk with you in this journey, and help you prepare to lead your child in the Faith.

Jesus commanded the Apostles to “go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19). Holy Apostles exists in order to help people encounter Christ and make disciples, and it is our prayer that through the baptism of your child, you will continue to encounter Christ more deeply and help your child become a disciple of Christ.

May God bless you!

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the “basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213). Through baptism, our sins are washed away and we receive the incredible gift of God’s life in our souls. Baptism is necessary for salvation, which is why it is important to baptize your child as soon as possible after birth.

What are my responsibilities as a parent?

As a parent, God has entrusted you with the task of helping your child get to heaven, and you have the great privilege and responsibility of raising your child in the Catholic Faith. This means that you need to live out your Catholic Faith and be an example to your child by attending Sunday Mass every week and receiving the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist at least once per year. It also means that God has entrusted you with teaching your child the truths of our Catholic Faith.

What are godparents?

According to Canon Law, a Godparent will “together with the parents, help the baptized to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.” The godparent should be able to play an active role in your child’s life as a role model, helping your child to grow into a faith-filled and practicing Catholic.

How should I select a godparent?

Godparents should not be selected for honorary reasons. A godparent has a serious responsibility and special role to play, and you should select someone who is able to fulfill those obligations. You should not select a godparent simply to honor a relative or friend; there are other ways to do that. Rather, you should select a faithfully Catholic godparent who lives out the Faith and can be a good example to your child. According to Canon Law, if you have two godparents, you may have one male and one female; or you may choose to just have one godparent.

What are the essential components for someone to be a godparent?

According to Canon Law, godparents must

- Be over the age of 16
- Be a fully initiated Catholic (have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and be a practicing Catholic living according to Church teaching
- Not be the mother or father of the person being baptized
- If married, they must have been married in the Church or had their marriage regularized within the Church. If single, they need to be living according to Church teaching (not living together outside of Catholic marriage or involved in a lifestyle contrary to Catholic morality).

How do I prepare for the baptism of my child?

At St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church, there are three components to baptism prep:

1) Parent/Godparent Paperwork

Baptism packets are available in the parish office. These packets contain the necessary forms that must be completed and returned to us.

2) Baptism Preparation Class

You will need to attend a baptism preparation class. course. If you completed a Baptism class within the past 2 years, you do not need to take the class again, but please provide a copy of the class certificate.

3) Meeting with Clergy

Please contact the office to schedule a time to meet with one of our clergy after you have completed the baptism preparation class.

When can I schedule the baptism?

Baptisms should be scheduled as soon as possible after the birth of your child and must be scheduled in advance with the parish office. The parish office must receive all the necessary paperwork and class completion certificates for BOTH parents and godparents before we can schedule the baptism. Please wait to receive confirmation from the parish office before making travel arrangements with family or the godparents. Baptisms are usually scheduled to be celebrated in one of the weekend Masses. We encourage you to plan ahead and allow plenty of time to complete the class and return the necessary paperwork.

FAQ

My child is over 7 years old. What do I need to do for him to be baptized?

Once a child has reached the age of reason (7), they must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation in order to be baptized. Please contact the parish office for more details if your child is over 7 and you would like him or her to be baptized.

Can my non-Catholic or non-practicing friend/family member be a godparent?

In order to be a godparent, your friend or family member must be a practicing Catholic in good standing to provide a good Catholic example to your child and help your child grow in the Faith.

The godparents weren't married in the Church. Can they still be godparents?

Part of the godparent's responsibility is to be a living example of the Faith. If the godparents are not married in the Church or are otherwise not living according to Church teaching, they are unable to fulfill this role. We encourage them to speak with their priest about the possibility of convalidation for their marriage so they can return to the sacraments.

I only know one person who can be a godparent. Is that a possibility?

Absolutely! We will just need the godparent's paperwork and a copy of his or her baptismal class completion certificate.

I don't know anyone who is able to be a godparent. Can my child still be baptized?

Yes! Please let us know if you are in this situation and we will assist you.