

Baptism & Confirmation Guidelines

for

Parents, Godparents, and Sponsors



St. Jude Catholic Church

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St. Jude Catholic Church warmly welcomes you for the Baptism of your child. This momentous occasion for your child marks the beginning of life in Christ and in the Church. It is our hope that this special sacrament will also be an opportunity for recommitment to your own faith.

Please keep the following important information in mind as you prepare for your child's baptism.

1. We ask that only the biological parents or legal guardian with documentation make the baptismal arrangements for their child. (c.868 §1)
2. Biological parents or legal guardians must be registered members of St. Jude Catholic Church.
3. One or both parents should practice the Catholic faith regularly by attending Sunday Mass and living in accord with the Commandments. (c.868 §2)
4. Parents must attend our Baptism Preparation Class (please see the inside cover of our weekly parish bulletin for upcoming class dates). These classes 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. (c.851)
5. Children may be baptized without first having received catechism prior to age 7. Once a child turns 7, children should enroll in Faith Formation classes to prepare them for not only Baptism but also First Communion. (c.852)
6. Parents who are not married, or not married in the Catholic Church, should speak to a priest or deacon as soon as possible. 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.
7. A date for Baptism may be secured with our Parish Secretary once the Intake Form, Baptism Preparation Class and Sponsor Forms have been completed and submitted.
8. Please call our parish to begin the process of registration when you are ready to have your child baptized and be sure to submit a copy of your child's Birth Certificate.
9. Parents are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibility is not given. (c.855)
10. Parents are obligated to take care that infants are baptized as soon as possible. (c.867 §1)
11. There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such a hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed. (c.868 §1, 2°)

Godparents for Infant Baptism and Sponsors for Confirmation

1. Godparents must be fully-initiated Catholics having received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation and must be at least 16 years of age. (c.874 §1, 2° & 3°)
2. Godparents must be practicing Catholics; attending Sunday Mass, praying, receiving the sacraments of Penance and Communion regularly, and involved in church community activities and/or ministries. (c.874 §1, 3°)
3. Godparents that are married must be married in the Catholic Church. (c.874 §3)
4. Godparents must obtain an original "Sponsor Certificate" from the parish where they are registered indicating that they are qualified to serve as Godparents.
5. At minimum, there should be one Godparent. Normally there are two Godparents. There may not be more than two Godparents. (c.873)
6. Godparents must be one male and one female, or one of each. There may not be two female Godparents nor two male Godparents. (c.873)
7. Only one non-Catholic Christian may be allowed as a witness to Baptism if there is already only one Catholic Godparent. This witness must be baptized. (c.874 §2)
8. The qualifications of the sponsor at Confirmation are the same as for the Godparent at Baptism which excludes a parent from serving as a Sponsor. (cc. 893 §1 and 874).