

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
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### **Guidelines for Baptism**

Our parish family rejoices with you on the birth of your baby and looks forward to your child's Baptism and membership in the family of God. At the Baptism of your child, you will be asked three questions:

What name do you give your child?

What do you ask of God's Church for your child?

Do you clearly understand what you are doing?

Asking Baptism for your child means you are making a commitment to share your faith and Christian life with your child and in every way possible you are actively living your faith. The following Guidelines for Baptism are steps our parish wants you to take in preparation for the Baptism of your child:

1. Parents must be practicing their faith: at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, worshipping at Mass on Sunday and be registered in our parish. Parents from another parish must bring a letter from the Pastor of their parish giving permission to baptize the child at our parish.

Parents must be married in the Catholic Church or working towards this before the Baptism-an appointment will be necessary with a priest or deacon to discuss marriage in the Church if this is needed.

2. Godparents: Godparents serve a special role at Baptism and in the life of the person to be baptized. Godparents represents the Christian Catholic community, are called to be witnesses of faith all life long to the child being baptized and to assist the parents in the Christian life and formation of their God-child.

Choosing Godparents is very important for the Christian faith and life of the child. Church law requires that Godparents are at least 16 years old, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and, if married, are married in the Catholic Church, and at least one Godparent is a practicing Catholic.

The other Godparent may be a baptized Christian. Godparents from another parish or city must bring a letter from their parish recommending them for their role as Godparents.

Both Parents and Godparents are required to participate in Baptism preparation class or classes. These are held every month at St. Mary's. Godparents who attend Baptism preparation classes in another parish must bring a certificate of class attendance. This should be brought to our parish office before the Baptism arrangements are finalized.

Please do not send out invitations for the Baptism celebration until the date is finalized with the parish office.

We look forward to celebrating new life in Christ for your child.