



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Congratulations on this special occasion! You have been blessed with a wonderful gift, and we recognize the important role you play as the primary teacher in your child's life. With God's guidance, we trust that you will receive the grace needed to nurture your child in wisdom, age, and grace.

As your parish community, we are here to support you on this journey. We look forward to celebrating your child's Baptism, a significant milestone that marks the beginning of their faith journey. This journey can be enhanced through Catholic education and your loving guidance as you teach them prayers, model regular Mass attendance, and foster a deep love for Christ and His Church.

In preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, and in accordance with Canon Law, we kindly invite you to review the requirements below.

BAPTISM INFORMATION GUIDELINES

1. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required. If the child is 7 years of age or older, please note that additional preparation will be necessary.

****Children who have reached the age of reason (7- 8 years) will have to be enrolled in Faith Formation classes to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. These children will also be eligible to receive their First Communion with the other children at their age level at the end of the academic year.**

2. We kindly ask that parents be registered in our parish for a minimum of 3 months. If this is not possible, a letter of permission from their parish is required. If they are not registered elsewhere, they will need to register with Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
3. For Catholic godparents, confirmation and active participation in the Faith are prerequisites. This must be verified through our downloadable form, which should be signed and officially sealed by their parish of record.
4. The suggested stipend for the sacrament is as follows:
 - \$75.00 for registered families for a minimum of 3 months.
 - \$100.00 for non-registered families.

****Payments in cash or by credit card only.**

5. Both parents and godparents are required to complete the Baptismal Preparation Class. Once they have completed this class and all the documents requested have been submitted, the office will proceed to schedule the baptism.

****Baptisms may only be scheduled upon the fulfillment of all requisite criteria.**

6. If the godparents live out of town, they must complete the required class at the parish where they are registered. After completing the class, they will need to obtain a letter from that parish, which must include the parish seal. This letter should be sent to Our Lady of Perpetual Help immediately.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS

(As stated in Roman Canon Law 872, 873, 874)

1. Must be at least 16 years of age.
2. The individual serving as a godparent must be a baptized Catholic who has completed the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. The godparent may not be the biological parent of the child receiving baptism.
4. There may be one male sponsor, one female sponsor, or one of each. Should the sponsors be married, they must be married in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, and it is not a requirement that they are married to each other.
5. If the sponsors are married within the Catholic Church, a copy of the marriage certificate is necessary. Alternatively, a baptismal certificate with appropriate notations for each godparent must be submitted to confirm that the godparents have fulfilled their sacramental obligations.
6. Sponsors must demonstrate regular attendance at Sunday Mass and an active commitment to living their faith.
7. A baptized non-Catholic is not eligible to serve as a godparent; however, such individuals may act as witnesses in conjunction with a Catholic godparent, provided that one of the child's parents is not a Catholic Christian.
8. Non-baptized individuals are ineligible to serve as either witnesses or godparents.
9. Completion of the Baptismal Preparation Class is mandatory for all parents and godparents involved.
10. As a prerequisite for baptism at Our Lady of Perpetual Church, each godparent must complete the designated document, provide their signature, and obtain the endorsement of their pastor, along with the official parish seal.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding the guidelines for a Catholic baptism, please refer to:

The Code of Canon Law (Can. 872-874) outlines the requirements for godparents, emphasizing the need for a godparent to be a good example of faith.

https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4-cann834-878_en.html

CHECKLIST

- Thoroughly review the guidelines and requirements associated with the baptism process.
- Ensure that the selected godparents meet the qualifications necessary to baptize your child.
- Confirm that you possess all required documentation necessary for both the child and the godparents.
- Please contact the office to arrange an appointment to submit your documentation and to register for the pre-baptismal class. **It is essential that the godparents present valid identification at the time of the class.**
- Upon completion of the class by the parents and godparents, we will proceed to schedule your child's baptism. A list of available dates will be provided for your selection.

Congratulations on your sweet little one's baptism.
May this day be only the beginning of their journey of faith!