



The Sacrament of Baptism



Saint George Church

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Visit us:





Congratulations!

Congratulations on the upcoming baptism of your child. We at Saint George Church are delighted to assist with your preparations.

The Sacrament

Within the Church, infants are baptized to welcome them into the Catholic faith and to free them from the original sin they were born with. Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source; it is the offer of salvation for all people. Baptism, along with sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, are component parts of Christian Initiation.

Preparation

The parent's role in baptism is very important; you are giving assurance to the Church that you will raise your child in the Catholic faith and upon Catholic values. If you are pregnant or have a child under the age of seven that you plan to have baptized, you can begin the baptism process now. If your child is over the age of seven, an additional requirement is detailed in the process below.

Process

1. Select Godparents — Godparents assist the parents in being a source of guidance and support to the child on his or her journey toward God. Prayerfully consider who you would like to assume that role. Consider a mature member of the Catholic Church, one who has received the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — and someone whose life demonstrates faith in everyday living.

Every child must have at least one Godparent that meets the following requirements ([Canons 872-874](#)):

- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic. This means the person has received the sacrament of Confirmation.
- If married, the marriage must be valid according to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. This means the marriage is “blessed”, performed, or approved by a Roman Catholic priest or deacon.
- Must be a practicing Catholic. This means the person is attending mass on Saturday/Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation and receives



the sacraments regularly.

- If you will have two Godparents, then one must be male and one female.
- If a non-Catholic is chosen for the role of Godparent, the individual is considered a Christian witness. This person needs to be baptized Christian.

Once a selection is made, share with that person the reasons that led to your decision; it is a great honor and responsibility.

2. Complete Forms— Each Godparent is required to submit a completed [Sponsor Form](#). If the Godparent is already an active member of Saint George Church, the Form requirement is waived. If the Godparent is a member of another parish, it is his/her responsibility to request that they send a letter confirming the 'member in good standing' status to Saint George Church.

If the child's parents live in the Erie area, it is strongly recommended that they are registered members of Saint George Church. Become a member of the parish by completing the [Parish Registration Form](#).

If the child being baptized is over the age of seven they will need to register for our Faith Formation program also called RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children). Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 814-864-0622 for more information.

3. Attend Class—Once the [Baptism Registration Form](#) is received, a representative from the Parish Office will contact you to confirm your registration for one of the required baptism preparation classes. Classes are held at Saint George Church the third Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:00p.m. and last approximately one hour. It is recommended that all sacraments take place at your home parish.

Both parents are encouraged to attend class, Godparents are optional.

Note: If you have had other children baptized at Saint George Church within the past 2-3 years, class attendance is not required. If your child is over the age of seven they will need attend Faith Formation classes (see bullet point above).

4. Schedule Baptism —Baptisms can be scheduled in a number of ways. Options are:
 - Saturday after the 4:30p.m. Vigil Mass



- Sunday after the 11:30a.m. Mass
- Other dates/times with approval

Call the Parish Office at 814-864-0622 to confirm the baptism date.

5. Baptism Ceremony — Parents, Godparents and other family members of the child are invited to participate in the Mass generally held prior to the baptism. The child is usually dressed in a baptismal gown or other white garment signifying that they have 'put on Christ'.

Photographs may be taken during and after the ceremony. While there are no set Baptismal fees, it is customary to give the Priest or Deacon presiding over the ceremony a donation.

Thank You

We appreciate your interest in having your child baptized at Saint George Church. This is an important sacramental event and your church community supports, celebrates and rejoices with you. May God continue you to bless you and your precious child.