



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parents

Congratulations on the birth of your child! I know that this is a time of incredible busyness, challenge, joy, and adjustment for you as your little one grows. It comes with a lot of work and self-sacrifice. Most of what you do for your child is seen by no one. On behalf of the faith community to which you belong—the Catholic Church—thank you! Because of you, and only because of you, your child will grow up Catholic.

Your child is already learning about God by how you love them and the example of your everyday actions. We at your parish want to support you so that you can help your child to grow up knowing a God who loves them unconditionally.

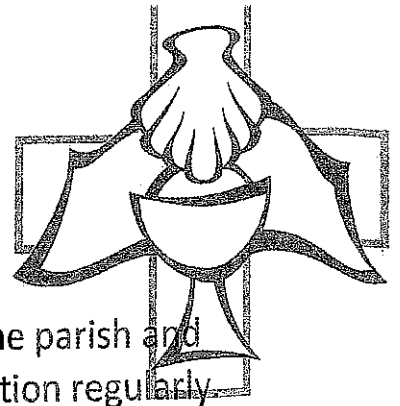
At the parish, we offer many other opportunities to help you and your family grow in the faith, including a new ministry called the Godfamily Ministry. A wonderful family from our parish has been selected to journey with you and your family during the next several years. You can expect a visit or phone call from your godfamily shortly after the baptism.

First and foremost, they have committed to pray for your child and your family every day. They will also share with you resources they receive from me and the parish that can help you foster a “Christ-centered” home for your family. In addition to your godfamily, our staff would also be happy to talk with you about your spiritual and faith questions, concerns, or interests. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Christ,


Fr. Michael Williams

7 Easy Steps to Having Your Child Baptized



1. Attend Mass weekly and participate in the life of the parish and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.
2. CAREFULLY READ THROUGH THE ENCLOSED MATERIALS
3. Fill out and return the application for baptism (enclosed).
4. Watch Video "Reborn" on the Formed.org website. View at least episodes 3 and 4.
5. Arrange to meet with Fr. Mike (or one of our deacons) to discuss the baptism of your child and what you gleaned from video "Reborn."
6. Choose Godparents for your child and ensure all necessary documents (godparent's baptismal certificate from the parish of their baptism and letter from their current pastor verifying they are attending Mass regularly) are submitted to St. Joseph Parish Office.
7. Celebrate the baptism of your child.

**** You must be registered in the parish and practicing your faith (i.e. going to Mass regularly) before meeting with Fr. Mike. If you are over 18 and do not remember filling out a registration form you are most likely not registered. Person's 18 or older are not registered under their parents. Also, use your collection envelopes when you go to Mass. This will allow us to verify your attendance.**

Requirements for Godparents

What are the requirements to be a Godparent?

According to Canon Law 874, Godparents must be **(1). at least sixteen years of age** and **(2). fully initiated in the Roman Catholic Church**. This means they have received all three Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Godparents must also be **(3). active Catholics in a state of grace**. Godparents can be single, but **(4) if they are married or living with a significant other, they *must* be married by the Catholic Church**.

Why is it this required?

The reason behind these requirements is that a godparent's primary and sole responsibility is to guide your child in the Catholic faith. While being a godparent is a great honor and a crucial part of our Catholic culture, the true and entire purpose of a godparent is to serve as a mentor in the Catholic faith to your son or daughter.

Think of it like this: if you want to become a teacher in the State of Michigan, you have to be an adult and have met some essential requirements, like graduating high school and having a clean record. Godparents are the teachers of the Catholic faith to your child, and as such, the Catholic Church is responsible for ensuring that they're qualified to do so.

What if the Godparent I want to choose for my son or daughter does not have all three of their Sacraments?

Unfortunately, they will not be able to serve as godparents.

You have two options:

- Find other potential godparents who do meet the requirements to baptize your child
- If the godparents are willing to become fully initiated in the Catholic Church, they can enroll in the RCIA program by calling the parish office, receive the Sacraments they are missing, and baptize your child once they've received these Sacraments

What if the Godparent I want to choose for my son or daughter is living with a significant other/married civilly, but is not married by the church?

Unfortunately, they will not be able to serve as godparents.

You have two options:

- Find other potential godparents who do meet the requirements to baptize your child
- If the godparents are willing to have their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church, they can start the marriage process, get married by the Catholic Church, and baptize your child once they've received the Sacrament of Matrimony