

ST. MARY'S / ST. LAWRENCE

PARISHIONER CHECKLIST - PREPARING FOR BAPTISM



BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS:

Parents/Guardians are required to be a registered parishioner at St. Mary of the Assumption or St. Lawrence or have a personal connection with a registered parishioner (i.e. grandparents or selected godparents are members of the parish). Anyone else must be approved by the pastor and have written permission from their own parish's pastor.

Parents or guardians must have completed a Baptism preparation program within the last two (2) years and at least one month prior to the Baptism date requested. If a family is a member of another parish, a letter must be received by St. Mary's at least one month prior to the Baptism date requested from their own parish's pastor granting permission for the baptism at St. Mary's, indicating that they are registered and practicing members/member and have participated in that parish's Baptism preparation class.

Children six years and younger are eligible. Children over the age of 7 are baptized once per year during Easter. Children seven and older must be enrolled and attending religious education classes and preparing to receive sacraments. This is a 2-year preparation program, whether in English and Spanish.

Church law requires that at least one godparent for the child baptized is a practicing Catholic, Confirmed in the Church.

PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:

Parents are asked to complete a Baptism Registration Form. After Baptism Prep class participation, the completed form must be provided to the parish a minimum of two weeks prior to the week of the baptism date requested.

Parents are to provide the parish with a copy of their child's birth certificate to be kept secure at the parish for purposes of sacramental record-keeping.

If the child is adopted or lives with a legal guardian, a copy of the legal decree (proof of guardianship) must be provided.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do both parents/guardians have to be Catholic?

No, only one parent/guardian needs to be Catholic. A child may be baptized as long as there is a well-founded hope they will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith. This hope is present so long as one parent/guardian is willing to practice the Catholic faith and share it with the child.

Not Married sacramentally (in the Church)?

It is possible to baptize your child but please contact the pastor to look into a possibility of validating the marriage sacramentally.

Who can be a godparent?

Church law requires that there be at least one godparent for the child baptized who is a practicing Catholic, Confirmed in the Church. A Godparent needs to be active, practicing and confirmed, and at least 16 years of age. Godparents also must have completed a Baptism preparation program within the last two years.

Non-Catholic Godparent?

No, only a Catholic can be a godparent because they are asked to promise to help support raising the child in the Catholic Faith. However, a non-Catholic Christian can be a “Witness” as long as there is one Catholic godparent. A non-baptized person cannot be a godparent or witness.

Proxy

You can have a proxy stand in for the godparent(s). Please let the staff know if the godparent is to be represented by a proxy. Only one godparent or proxy need be physically present for the baptism itself.

When are Baptisms held?

All baptisms of children are celebrated at St. Mary's outside of Mass. Baptisms usually take place the third Sunday of each month in English and the fourth Saturday of each month in Spanish.

Private Baptism

Arrangements for Baptisms on dates and times other than those already on the parish calendar are scheduled with the presider (Deacon or Priest).

Baptism Fee

There is no fee for Baptism, but if you would like to donate to the parish, or give a personal stipend to the presider, you are welcome to do so.