



Baptism Requirements

1. Child
 - a. Age – birth to age 7
2. Parents
 - a. Parents should be members of St. John the Baptist Parish Community.
 - b. At least one of the parents should be a Catholic in good standing and practicing the Catholic faith. This means attending Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening), making every effort to live the Gospel values, and being guided by the Commandments of God and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - c. Both parents should attend the Baptism class and complete all the necessary paperwork.
 - d. The mother of the child must have her maiden name on the baptismal certificate and in the Sacramental records.
3. Custodial Issues
 - a. Single/divorced parents
 - i. The parent who has sole custody of the child must be the one who presents the child for Baptism.
 - ii. If there is joint custody, both parents must agree to the Baptism.
 - b. If the parents are not married, and you plan to use the father's surname, a notarized statement (birth certificate) acknowledging paternity must be furnished before entry can be made in the baptism register showing father's name.
4. Godparents
 - a. Godparents should be active, practicing Catholics who attend Mass each weekend.
 - b. Canon Law #872
 - i. A baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only as a witness to baptism and only along with a Catholic person who has the office of Godparent.
 - c. Canon Law #873
 - i. There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor, or one of each.
 - d. Canon Law #874
 - i. Godparents should be at least 16 years of age.

- ii. Godparents should be confirmed in the Catholic Church, received the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and be leading a life of faith.
 - iii. If married, the ceremony must have occurred in the Roman Catholic Church – cannot be a civil marriage, common law, or cohabitation.
 - iv. Cannot be bound by any canonical penalty.
 - v. Cannot be the mother or father of the one to be baptized.
- 5. Process for Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism
 - a. Call the Office of Discipleship and Mission and register for the Baptism class.
 - b. Baptism class is usually held on the first Monday of each month, except in July.
 - c. At the time of the class, know who the Godparents will be and the date on which the Sacrament will be celebrated.
 - d. Godparents are requested to attend the class when possible.
 - e. The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration usually held on the first Sunday of the month.
- 6. Special Circumstances
 - a. If a child in your family has been baptized at St. John's in the past three years:
 - i. Paperwork will be filled emailed and a date for the baptism will be scheduled.
 - b. If the Baptism celebration will take place in another parish, a letter will need to be written by the Director regarding class completion, and then sent to the celebrating parish.
 - c. If the Baptism class was held in another parish and the celebration will take place here at St. John's, please call the Office of Discipleship and Mission to obtain the necessary paperwork to be filled out. The completed paperwork must be returned to schedule the Baptism celebration.