

The Sacrament of Baptism



Baptism Preparation Guidelines

Saint Margaret of Antioch
Pearl River, NY

Congratulations on the birth of your child. We, with you, thank our Gracious God for the gift of your child. We thank you for bringing your child to be baptized into the Catholic Faith.

These guidelines are to help you in properly preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

PARENTS:

Because of the natural relationship, parents have the most important role in the Baptism and in the life of their child. You along with God, co-created a unique and beautiful life of a human being. You generously accepted the gift from God, now you are asking for a gift from God, the gift of faith. You are accepting for your child, the rights and privileges, as well as the obligations of being a Roman Catholic. Therefore it is imperative that you raise your child as an active member of God's Family, which is the Church. After the celebration of the Sacrament, the gateway to God's life, it is the responsibility of the parents, in their gratitude to God and in fidelity to the duty they have undertaken, to enable their child to know God, whose adopted child they have become, to receive confirmation, and to participate in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore,

Parents must be members of St. Margaret, or

A letter of permission is needed from the parents' parish

So important is the obligation in bringing up children according to God's Law and His Holy Church, parents are to be helped by Christian sponsors or godparents.

GODPARENTS

Godparents are to help the parents in their duties as Christian's mothers and fathers. Godparents also represent the extended family of the Church. The role of godparent is much more than just cultural or ceremonial. The Church makes certain demands of the godparent or Christian sponsor:

1. Must be baptized Christian
2. At least one godparent must be a practicing Catholic
3. If there are to be two godparents, one must be male and one female.
4. The Catholic godparent(s) must have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
5. Must be at least 14 years of age.

PRE-BAPTISMAL MEETING

First time parents and godparents need to attend a pre-Baptismal meeting the meeting will explain the new responsibilities you will have as Christian parents and as your child's first teachers in the ways of faith.

Godparents also need to attend a meeting either at St. Margaret's or in their home parish.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ❖ Baptisms are scheduled at 1:30 PM on most Sundays of the Year.
- ❖ Changes in the Baptism Register of the Church, once entered cannot be changed at a later date unless so ordered by a Civil or Ecclesiastical Court of Law.
- ❖ Please arrive with family and friends at least ten (10) minutes before the ceremony
- ❖ A free-will offering to the Church is customary