

Guidelines in choosing a Godparent.

To be chosen as a godparent is a special gift and responsibility. The godparent(s) should be someone who will provide examples of faith and support by the way they live out their faith in word and action.

-Godparents must be at least 16 years of age.

-Godparents must be practicing, active Catholics who have received the 3 Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.

-By church law, one godparent, male or female is sufficient. If two are chosen, one must be female and the other male.

-Godparents set a good Christian example and support the parent(s) in raising the child in the Catholic faith.

-The godparent should be an active member of their church community.

-A baptized Christian may act as a Christian Witness but not as a Godparent. His or her role would be to witness to Christ for the sake of this newly baptized child. If someone is chosen as a Christian witness, the parents must still chose a Godparent. A Christian Witness cannot substitute as a Godparent. The Christian Witness' name is not entered on the baptism certificate. **Parents must speak to the Church office before asking someone to be a Christian Witness.**

-A maximum of 2 godparents OR 1 godparent and 1 Christian Witness is allowed (1 male and 1 female).



**Jesus said:
“Go therefore,
and make disciples
of all the nations.
Baptize them
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.”**

Matthew 28:19

Revised September 2011

Preparation for the **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** 2011 - 2012



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Congratulations!

Whether you are expecting the birth of your child or your child has already been born, you may be thinking of having him/her baptized.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** for infants to age 7 is one of the Sacraments of Initiation by which your child becomes a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. In the waters of Baptism, your child participates in the dying and rising to new life with Jesus. It is through Baptism that your child begins a journey of faith with God, supported by the Catholic Christian Community.

St. Thomas More

considers the Celebration of Baptism a special time for family, friends and the entire parish community. For this reason, **we would like to help you prepare for your Child's baptism.**



What can you do to have your child baptized?

1. Following must be provided:

- copy** of the child's birth certificate
- copy** of Catholic parent(s) Baptism Certificate
- Proof of documentation** that godparent received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the **Catholic church**
- 1 godparent is sufficient; if there are 2, both must be Catholic and confirmed
- 4 x 6 **picture of child**

2. Contact the Parish Office

Once all the documents have been gathered, contact Monica Bober, Pastoral Assistant at 434-6313 ext 227 to book an Office Visit during office Hours or at our **Monthly Registration Nights.**

Please note: Do not call to book an Office Visit until you have all the documents.

The Office Visit consists of parents meeting with the Pastoral Assistant or one of our Baptism Team Members. **Both parents are required to be present** to fill out the baptism form, register for the preparation sessions, choose a baptism date and answer any questions related to their child's baptism

Parents still expecting their child must wait to book the baptism when the birth certificate is provided.

3. Attend Baptism Preparation Sessions

Both parents are required to attend 2 Wednesday evening sessions from 7 to 9 pm or a scheduled Saturday session. These sessions are held monthly (except July, August, December and April) and give parents the opportunity to have a better understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism and the role of parents and godparents.

In Baptism, the **role of parents and godparents is important** as they are representatives of God and the Catholic Church, serving as the primary teachers of faith and caring for the spiritual needs of the child throughout his/her life. **Godparents are also asked to attend the classes at their parish or St. Thomas More church.**

4. Baptism Celebration

Baptisms are **usually celebrated 3 times a month; Saturday Mass at 5 pm, Sunday Mass at 12 pm and 2 pm Sunday Baptism Liturgy.** During Advent and Lent, one celebration takes place on Sunday at 2 pm. In July and August, baptisms take place one weekend a month; 5 pm Saturday Mass and 1 pm Sunday Baptism Liturgy.