



## The Sacrament of Baptism at the Church of Saint Mark

### BAPTISM AND BAPTISM PREPARATION GUIDE

**Congratulations!** We are honored that you wish to celebrate this joyous occasion with our parish family.

#### **Registering Your Child and Reserving a Date for Baptism**

Please complete the registration form at [this link](#) to reserve your desired date and we will work with your family and the clergy to schedule a date. *You must register at least one month before the baptism to ensure all paperwork is processed in time.*

#### **Baptism Preparation for First Time Parents**

Baptism is the door to all other sacraments your child will receive and it is the beginning of their personal relationship with Christ. As parents, it is your responsibility to be properly formed to pass on and witness to the faith. *If this is your first child or it has been five or more years since your previous preparation class, the Church requires you to complete sacramental preparation.* We recommend completing Baptism preparation before your child arrives. Please note that we cannot set up a Baptism date for your child until your preparation has been completed. Baptism preparation will also be privately scheduled. Please contact Fr. Patrick Evans, PES at [baptisms@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:baptisms@onestrongfamily.org) to set up preparation.

#### Baptism Preparation Format

Our approach is not only to catechize, but to provide you with the tools and community to help you raise a strong Catholic family. Parents will learn to introduce their small children to our Catholic faith, ways in which parents live out their own baptismal call through family life, and the rich meaning behind the Sacrament of Baptism and the Rite itself.

We understand that everyone is in a different part of their faith journey. If you have questions about the teachings of the Catholic faith, which you will pass on to your child, we encourage you to reach out to Fr. Patrick Evans, PES who will provide additional resources or a meeting with a member of the Pro Ecclesia Sancta (PES) religious order at Saint Mark's.

#### **What are the requirements to be a godparent?**

It is only necessary that one godparent be chosen for your child. If, however, you choose to have two godparents, the Church requests that one must be male and one female. A godparent must be a baptized Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church, who is at least 16 years of age, has received their First Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confirmation. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church.



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#### **What are the requirements to be a godparent? (continued)**

A baptized non-Catholic may stand as a witness with a Catholic godparent. A parent cannot be the godparent for his or her child. Godparents are asked to complete a form which requests their parish establish their eligibility to act as a godparent.

#### **Is there a fee for baptism?**

The Church does not charge for the sacraments. Expenses for baptismal candles, garments, and certificates are covered by the parish, so your weekly support of the collection is greatly appreciated.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Audrey Koval at [baptisms@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:baptisms@onestrongfamily.org) or the parish office at (651) 645-5717.

We look forward to sharing in this special occasion with your family!