

INFANT BAPTISM AND BAPTISM PREPARATION

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK

Congratulations! We are honored that you wish to celebrate this joyous occasion with our parish family. Please find below pertinent information and frequently asked questions regarding Baptism at the Church of Saint Mark.

REGISTERING YOUR CHILD AND RESERVING A DATE FOR BAPTISM

Please complete the registration form on our website to begin the processes. Parish staff will follow up to schedule a date as well as send along required paperwork to be completed before the Baptism. You should register at least one month before either your child's due date, or your desired date of baptism, to ensure all paperwork is processed in time.

Infant baptism registration form:
stmark.xyz/baptism-form



BAPTISM PREPARATION

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 in order 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 that you complete sacramental (Baptism) preparation. We recommend completing Baptism preparation before your child arrives. Baptism preparation will be scheduled after we receive your registration form.



**THE SACRAMENT
OF BAPTISM**
*AT THE CHURCH OF
SAINT MARK*



INFANT BAPTISM AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK

BAPTISM PREPARATION FORMAT

We know you are busy. And after the baby comes, perhaps you have less free time than ever before. Nevertheless, the duties of raising a child in the faith are serious ones. You are to be the primary educator of your child in the Faith! As a parish, therefore, we really want to invest in your preparation, not only so you understand the richness of the Sacrament itself, but also help you start thinking about how you will nurture the seeds sown in your child's heart at baptism.

Our preparation program consists of a video you will watch on your own, a meeting with a mentor couple to discuss raising your child in the Catholic faith, and a meeting with a priest to go over the Rite of Baptism and offer some wisdom about both the Sacrament and the Christian life. We ask that the preparation be completed before the baptism itself, and preferably before the child is born.

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 arrange a meeting with a member of the Pro Ecclesia Sancta (PES) religious order at Saint Mark.

GODPARENT REQUIREMENTS

Only one godparent is needed for baptism. However, it is most common for a child to have two godparents. If there will be two godparents, the Church requires that one be male and one female. There cannot be more than two godparents nor can parents be the godparent of their child.

A godparent must be a baptized Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church who is at least 16 years of age and has received the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. Godparents are asked to provide a sponsor letter from their parish indicating their eligibility to act as a godparent. This letter can be sent directly to Saint Mark.

A baptized non-Catholic may stand as a Christian witness with a Catholic godparent, and help foster the Christian life in the child. They are not considered a godparent, but they can perform the functions of a godparent during the baptismal ceremony, and throughout the child's life.





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In the case that a godparent cannot attend the baptism, there can be a proxy who acts in the place of the godparent on the day of the Baptism.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THERE A FEE FOR BAPTISMS?

Saint Mark's does not charge for baptism. Expenses for baptismal candles, garments, and certificates are covered by the parish, so your weekly support of the collection is greatly appreciated. It is a pious custom to give provide the celebrant with an honorarium as a token of gratitude, though this is not required.

WHEN IS THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM CELEBRATED AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARK?

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday mornings, between 9:00AM and 12:00PM.

WILL THERE BE OTHER CHILDREN BAPTIZED AT THE SAME TIME?

Generally baptism are individually scheduled per family. However, group baptisms are a possibility if the need or desire arises.

WHY IS THERE A BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS?

Baptism is a sacrament and a major event in the life of your child, and so careful preparation is important. The Church requires there be grounds for trusting that a child will be raised in the Catholic faith for an infant baptism to occur.

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS HELD?

Baptism Preparation classes will be held in the Parish Center or at another location arranged between the priest and family. The date and time will be arranged once the baptism registration form is submitted.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Saint Mark's Pastoral Associate, Audrey Koval, at akoval@onestrongfamily.org or the parish office at (651) 645-5717. We look forward to sharing in this special occasion with your family!



BAPTISMAL PRAYER

for Parents

Take this little one dear Father into your loving arms. Cover and protect [*name*]. Guide him(*her*) in all things. Fill his(*her*) days with love and joy. Nurture all [*name*] is and help him(*her*) as he(*she*) learns and grows to follow your Way. Speak to [*name*] of truth and light, so that his(*her*) souls can sing a cry of praise — a song of joy. Take his (*her*) little hands dear God and bless him (*her*) as he(*she*) prays. Let a beautiful love story begin on this baptism day!



CHURCH OF SAINT MARK

To live and share Christ's call to holiness

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