

# Welcome to the Sacrament of Baptism

Where by the grace of God we share in the heart of Jesus with parents, godparents and the faith community.

This Sacrament welcomes everyone. Pope Francis says: *“Every child who is born is a gift of joy and of hope, and every child who is baptized is a miracle of the faith and a feast for the family of God.”*

Baptism is the greatest gift parents can give their child. It is the first step in giving their child a share in eternal life. What could be more important! At baptism the parents are told to “make it their constant care to bring up their child in the practice of the faith.”

## What is the role of the parents in Baptism?

- They are responsible for initiating their child into the sacramental life.

By being committed Catholics they serve as models for their child.

- The religious education of their child is their responsibility.
- They worship regularly with their family.
- Faith and prayer are a part of their daily life.

## Who is a Godparent for Baptism?

- There are many good people who we would like to act as godparents but if they are to sponsor and support a child into the Catholic faith, they need to be examples of that faith in the Catholic community.
- Only one godparent is required. If two are selected there must be a male and female.
- The godparent must be a baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic.
- The godparents will support the parents and child in prayer
- A sponsor certificate is required from the parish where the godparent is registered and attends Mass.
- If the potential godparent is married, he/she must have been married by a priest or deacon.
- A second practicing Protestant or Orthodox godparent can be a Christian witness. No paperwork is required.

## How does the community assist the newly baptized?

- The child is welcomed into the community.
- They pray for the child's health and growth in the faith.
- Help and training is provided to the parents and godparents.
- Information is registered in the parish baptismal records and the child receives a certificate of baptism.

For registration and information about selection of godparents, please contact Susan Pacek Baptisms are usually held monthly following the preparation session and completion of paperwork.

Contact Susan Pacek at [508-856-9960](tel:508-856-9960) and [st.geobaptism@gmail.com](mailto:st.geobaptism@gmail.com).