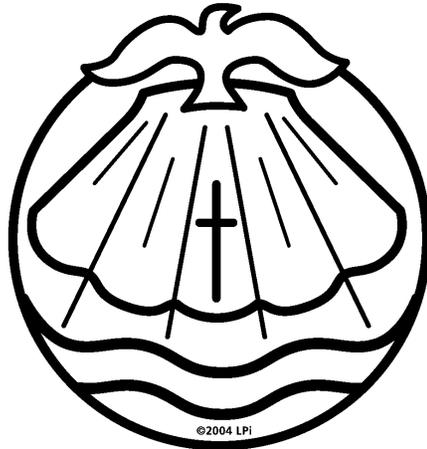


St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake



Sacrament of Baptism

Attending Baptism Preparation Class

Parents and Godparents are required to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class.

Classes are held by appointment only. Contact Brian and Eileen Wickham at 512-852-8847 or eileenwickham@gmail.com.

If you plan to baptize your child at this parish fill out the Request for Baptism form and bring a copy of your child's state issued birth certificate to the office. We must have the copy before the baptism can be scheduled.

Baptism at Another Parish

Please contact the church office and request a letter granting permission for the child to be baptized at another parish. Please be prepared to provide information on your completion of the baptismal prep class, the name of the parish where the baptism will take place, address, and date of the baptism.

From Another Parish – Baptism at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake

If you are requesting Baptism for your child, but are registered at another parish you are required to provide St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake with a letter giving permission for your child to be baptized at our parish and verification of completion of baptism prep class.

St. Mary, Our Lady of the Lake
6100 Lohman Ford Rd., Lago Vista, TX 78645

Phone: 512-267-2644
Email: office@StMaryOurLady.org

Contact: Brian and Eileen Wickham 512-852-8847 or eileenwickham@gmail.com



Your Role and Requirements in Baptism

PARENTS

- At least one parent must be Catholic.
- Catholic parents must attend Mass regularly and be willing to raise the child as a Catholic.
- If the parent lives within the boundaries of Saint Mary, Our Lady of the Lake, you must be registered.
- If the parent is registered in another parish or lives within the boundaries of another parish, a letter from your pastor is required stating that you have permission to have your child baptized at Saint Mary, Our Lady of the Lake.
 - Parents need to attend a preparation class.
 - Those who attend class in another parish must provide a letter giving the date and place where the class was taken.
 - A baptismal prep class is valid for 3 years.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Request for Baptism
- State Record of Birth
- Godparent Covent Form (one per Godparent)
- If needed, permission letter from parish and/or letter of completion of class.

All documentation must be submitted before Baptism date can be set.

GODPARENTS

Godparents must be Catholic. The Code of Canon Law specifies the requirements for serving as a Godparent (Canon 874):

- You may not be the parent of the person being baptized;
- you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage;
- if single should be living in accordance to the tenants of our faith
- and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church
- One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex

A Catholic lacking confirmation or a non-Catholic may serve only as a Witness or as a proxy for the Godparent.

All Godparents must sign the "Covenant Form" testifying that they are Catholics in good standing with the Church

- Sponsors return the form to the office by mail or email. The baptism cannot be scheduled without the Sponsor Covenant Form.

Godparents need to attend a preparation class.

- Those who attend class at another parish must provide a letter from that parish giving the date/place where the class was taken.

Godparents who accept this wonderful role should:

- encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events (Christmas and Easter) and personal growth events (graduation, first job, engagement)
- participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your Godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- And most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

Baptism Quick Facts

Just in case you are quizzed by our deacon!

“Through Baptism each child is inserted into a gathering of friends who never abandon him in life or in death... This group of friends, this family of God, into which the child is now admitted, will always accompany him, even on days of suffering and in life’s dark nights; it will give him consolation, comfort, and light.” Pope Benedict XVI

Choosing a Godparent:

- Catholic Christian relatives or friends who serve as a Christian role model for your child.
- Someone who gives witness to God in their everyday lives.
- Someone who is willing to maintain a long-term relationship with your child.
- Someone you would entrust with the raising of your child in faith.

What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is an outward sign, initiated by Christ, through the Church, giving grace.

There are seven:

- Baptism
- Reconciliation
- Eucharist
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

What are the symbols of Baptism?

- **Water:** symbolizes cleansing and new life
- **Candle:** symbolizes the light of Christ
- **Chrism Oil:** representing power and strength which comes from the Lord
- **White Garment:** symbol of transition and change; purity and cleansing; a visible sign of putting on Christ, of taking on a new way of life

St. Mary’s provides a white bib and candle. We present this to your child in community as an outward sign that we, as fellow Christians, also accept the responsibility of helping you as you raise your child in the faith of the Catholic Church.

What is Baptism?

Is the way out of the kingdom of death into life, the gateway to the Church, and beginning of a lasting communion with God. [CCC 1213-1216, 1276-1278]

Baptism is the foundational sacrament and prerequisite to all other sacraments. [YouCat 194]

Who can be baptized?

Any person who has not yet been baptized. The only prerequisite for Baptism is faith, which must be professed publicly at the Baptism. [CCC 1246-1254]

In infant baptism the parents make the profession of faith based on their promise to raise the child Catholic.

Why do we do infant baptism?

From antiquity the Church has practiced infant baptism. There is one good reason for this: before we decide on God, God has decided on us. Baptism is therefore a grace, an undeserved gift of God, who accepts us unconditionally. Believing parents who want what is best for their child want Baptism also, in which the child is freed from the influence of original sin and the power of death. [CCC 1250, 1282]

Who can administer Baptism?

Normally a Bishop, priest, or deacon administers the sacrament of Baptism. In an emergency, any Christian, indeed anyone, can baptize by pouring water over the head of the recipient and pronouncing the baptismal formula, “ I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” [CCC1256, 1284]

Is baptism the only way to receive salvation?

For those who have received the Gospel and have heard that Christ is “the way, and the truth, and the light” (Jn 14:6), Baptism is the only way to God and salvation. [CCC 1257-1261]

But, in places where the Church does not exist God paves way for salvation. Those who desire God and live their lives according to their conscience may find salvation through Baptism of desire.

Don't worry there will be a book!

Baptism Ceremony

Reception of the Child

- Opening questions to parents
 - What name do you give your child?
 - What do you ask of God's church?
 - Hint, hint: Baptism
 - Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?
 - You are promising to raise your child according to the faith.
- Opening questions to Godparents
 - Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?
- Signing with the Cross
 - Deacon or Father will silently make sign of cross on your child's forehead as welcome.
 - All are invited to do this as well, parents, Godparents, children, grandparents...

Liturgy of the Word

- Reading from Matthew 28:18-20
 - Prayer of Exorcism: This is not an exorcism to drive out evil spirits, but rather, a prayer to introduce the anointing with oil, and a request that God strengthen the child against the evil in the world.

Celebration of the Sacrament

- Blessing of the Font
- Renewal of Baptismal Promise
 - Three questions: Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promise?
 - Parents and Godparents answer: I do.
 - Three questions: Do you believe in God the Father? Do you believe in Jesus Christ his only son? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
 - Parents and Godparents answer: I do.
- Baptism
 - Asked once more if it is your will that your child be baptized.

Explanatory Rites

- Blessing with Chrism
 - This baptismal oil, chrism, is olive oil with special perfume which is blessed by the bishop in a special ceremony once a year. In the baptismal ceremony it is used to anoint forehead of the newly baptized. This oil is used to anoint a baptized Christian in the sacraments of Confirmation and Ordination.
- Placing of Baptismal Garment
- Sharing the Light
 - The lit candle is presented to the baptized, held by the father or a godparent during the remainder of the ceremony. The presentation of light represents how the newly baptized will become a son or daughter of "the light."

Conclusion of the Rite

- Blessing of Mother, Father, and the whole assembly.

BAPTISM GODPARENT COVENANT

As a Godparent, your responsibility is to foster the faith of your godchild and to reflect to your godchild the meaning of life of Catholic discipleship.

The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as a Godparent (Canon 874): You may not be the parent of the person being baptized; you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage; and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.

I understand the requirements of being a Baptism godparent and I state that I received the **Sacrament of Baptism**

at _____ Church in
_____ (City and State)

I received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**

at _____ Catholic Church in
_____ (City and State)

(And if married) celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage

at _____ in
_____ (City and State)

My godchild's name is: _____

Name of parish and city where Baptism is to take place:

Parish _____ City _____

I am active in the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____



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REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

Name of Child: _____
Place of Birth: _____
Date of Birth: _____

Family Data

Address: _____	
Home Phone: _____	
Father	Mother
Last Name: _____	Maiden Name: _____
First Name: _____	First Name: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Catholic: Y N	Catholic: Y N
Parishioner: Y N	Parishioner: Y N
Attended Class: Y N	Attended Class: Y N

Godparents

Godfather	Godmother
Name: _____	Name: _____
Catholic: Y N	Catholic: Y N
Parishioner: Y N	Parishioner: Y N
Attended Class: Y N	Attended Class: Y N

Baptisms are held Sundays after the 11:00 Mass.

Baptism Request Date: _____

Preference for: Deacon Terry Father Don Deacon Ed Deacon Roy

For Priest/Deacon Use Only

Date of Baptism: _____

Name of Priest/Deacon: _____