

Baptism Preparation

The Great Undertaking of Baptism

In the Baptismal Rite, the priest asks the child's parents this question:

“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”

That may be a difficult question to answer, especially for first time parents. There are so many new responsibilities with a child that sometimes it is overwhelming to consider how to meet all the child's needs. Because our priests have a responsibility for determining the parents' readiness for the celebration of the sacrament, we invite you to really reflect on what Baptism means to you and how you will teach your child about Jesus Christ. Contemplating your child's Baptism will also help you to reflect on how you are living out your baptismal responsibilities and sharing in the faith life of the Church. Some questions to ask yourself:

- What does my baptism mean to me?
- Do I participate in Mass to worship God every week?
- What is my involvement in the parish?
- How will I grow in my faith so to hand on the faith to my child?
- How will I model my relationship with Jesus?

Selecting Godparents for Your Child

Many times parents inquire as to whom should serve as godparents for their child. Being a godparent is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. It implies that the person has a real appreciation of the Catholic faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the child and parents.

Church law requires a sponsor/godparent to be at least 16 years of age, fully initiated (has received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and is a registered and participating Catholic at a Catholic parish. While it is common practice to have two sponsors/godparents, only one is required for Baptism.

Oftentimes a family requests a person who is a member in good standing in a Christian church to serve as a godparent. Along with the Catholic sponsor/godparent, this person may serve as a Christian Witness for the child. Please note: because the Catholic sponsor/godparent is one who leads a life in harmony with the faith, former Catholics who have joined other Christian churches, Catholics who no longer practice their Catholic faith or those who have been baptized Catholic but have not received Eucharist and/or Confirmation cannot serve as either a sponsor/godparent or Christian witness.

Catholic godparents are to complete the [Godparent Form](#) and return it to the parish office.

Baptism Formation Session(s)

Even though parents are the primary religious educators of their children, our parish shares in the responsibility of forming children in the Catholic faith by offering faith formation programs from pre-K through grade 12. We begin our commitment by offering several Baptism formation sessions in which both parents (and godparents, if possible) are required to attend these sessions.

Baptismal Questionnaire (Please print)

1. Full name of child to be baptized: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ City & State of Birth: _____

2. Family information

Father's name: _____ Religion _____

If Catholic, please list the Sacraments you have received _____

Mother's full maiden name: _____ Religion _____

If Catholic, please list the Sacraments you have received _____

Phone number: (____) _____ Cell number: (____) _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

3. Have the parents been married in the Catholic Church? _____ Wedding date: ___/___/___

Where did marriage take place? _____ Officiant: _____

4. Are you registered as parishioners at St. Jerome Catholic Church? (yes/no) _____

If yes, how long have you attended St. Jerome Church? _____ What Mass does your family attend? _____

Why are you seeking baptism for your child? _____

5. Have you had any other children baptized? _____ Who? _____ When? _____

6. Godparent Information: For Godparent eligibility requirements, please see the Godparent form. The godparents share with the parents the responsibility for raising the child in the Catholic faith.

Name of Godfather: _____

Name/location of parish: _____ Diocese: _____

Letter of good standing received? _____ Attended baptism prep/Date: ___/___/___

Name of Godmother: _____

Name/location of parish: _____ Diocese: _____

Letter of good standing received? _____ Attended baptism prep/Date: ___/___/___

7. When did you attend the baptismal preparation sessions at St. Jerome? ___/___/___

We require both parents and at least one of the godparents, if possible, to attend the class.

If the godparents live out of town, they may attend a class at their local parish.

8. When is the scheduled date and time of your child's Baptism? ___/___/___, ___:___ am/pm

In asking the Church to baptize my child, I accept the responsibility to try and raise my child in the faith, to accompany him or her to Sunday Mass, to ensure he or she receives faith education, and to provide a loving, prayerful Christian family life to the best of my ability.

Father's signature

Mother's signature

___/___/___
Date

GENERAL INFORMATION

Briefly describe your religious upbringing:

Our (my) present involvement in St. Jerome parish and the larger Church includes

Please describe the amounts and types of religious studies you have had an opportunity to take part in as a child and as an adult.

I would like the opportunity to dialogue over the following issue(s) of faith or practice of the Church (something you don't understand).

Understanding that in seeking Baptism for our child we must be willing to witness our faith in our own lives and accept the responsibility for our child's growing in faith, we are willing to,

1. prepare for the baptism by attending the Baptism formation sessions required, and
2. demonstrate our willingness to be participant in the faith life of the parish community.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

St. Jerome Catholic Church
ATTN – Pat Kunish
10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, FL 33774

OR

receptionist@stjeromeonline.org