



## St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church BAPTISM INFORMATION

524 N. Rush Street | Itasca, Illinois 60143

Phone Number: 630-773-1272 | Fax number: 630-773-1720



St. Peter the Apostle Parish celebrates Baptism as a process that begins with your decision to bring your child to the Sacrament. In order that you may fully participate in the celebration of the Sacrament, you will be involved in each step of this process.

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated either during one of the regular weekend Masses or on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm (immediately following 11:15 am Mass). Please call the Parish Center to discuss scheduling options and availability.

It is strongly recommended that parents review the baptism planning information before selecting a godparent. A sponsor verification form must be provided for each godparent. Christian witnesses are most welcome to celebrate with the family and community, but please note they are not recorded as sponsors on the Baptismal Certificate or in the Baptismal Register. The proper verification forms for St. Peter the Apostle are included with the baptism packet provided.

Before finalizing the arrangements for the Baptism of your child, please review all of the following guidelines to make sure you are meeting the necessary criteria:

- ☐ Parents need to be registered and active parishioners (contact the Parish Center if you need to register).
- ☐ One or both parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before your child can be baptized. Classes are held on the first Thursday of each month and can be scheduled with the Parish Center. Please allow ample time to schedule and attend a class.
- ☐ As Godparents act as sponsor to the one being baptized, Catholic Church Law mandates that at least one Godparent is a practicing Catholic—confirmed and in good standing in the Catholic Church. (See letters to be signed and returned in the Baptism packet).
- ☐ One Godparent may be non-Catholic but is documented as a witness and must be of Christian denomination.

Please complete and return the following items to the Parish Center:

- ☐ Parent Baptism Registration Form
- ☐ Parent questionnaire
- ☐ Godparent Verification Forms indicating their good standing and active participation at their parish (form to be used is provided in packet)
- ☐ Parishioner registration (if not already registered)

Required paperwork **MUST** be returned to the Parish Center **no later than ten (10) business days prior to the intended baptism date** or your date will be rescheduled. This includes all necessary information and supporting documents regarding family records and godparents.

**Note:** The parish does not charge a specific fee for baptisms; however, a free-will offering is very much appreciated to assist with expenses. Donations can be offered in advance or on the day of baptism.





## PARENT BAPTISMAL PREPARATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Choose the response(s) most closely resembling your feelings or belief. When none seem appropriate, please write your own answer in the space provided. There is no right or wrong answer. The intent is to help you clarify your thoughts and present some additional concepts for your consideration.

### Why do you want your child baptized?

- ☐ I want my child to have new life in Christ and to be received into the faith community.
- ☐ I want my child to be free from Original Sin and to enjoy everlasting life.
- ☐ I want my child to be raised a Catholic and I consider Baptism to be the first step.
- ☐ Baptism has always been a tradition in our family and would present difficulties for us not to have our child baptized.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### What does Baptism mean to you as a parent?

- ☐ An initiation into the Catholic Christian community.
- ☐ A cleansing and purification from Original Sin.
- ☐ Having a personal relationship with God.
- ☐ A tradition
- ☐ A gift of faith
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### What qualities should a sponsor have?

- ☐ Share the same values as we as parents do
- ☐ Someone my child can turn to
- ☐ Models the presence of Jesus in everyday life
- ☐ Has/Lives a "prayer" life
- ☐ Gives to the church
- ☐ Has faith in God
- ☐ To fulfill an obligation
- ☐ Supports us as parents
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Obligations

What are your responsibilities as a parent, after your child is baptized?

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What do you think the Church's responsibility (ies) is (are) after your child is baptized?

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# St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church GODPARENT VERIFICATION FORM

See further explanations on back side



This form is to be completed, signed and returned to St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church at least two (2) weeks prior to the desired date of baptism.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, phone number \_\_\_\_\_,  
(print your name)  
have been asked to be a Godparent for \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name of child being baptized)



A godparent is an important person in the life of the person to be baptized.

They are: 1) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which a individual is being baptized;  
2) a spiritual role model; and  
3) an example of the Christian life.

They are to be a source of guidance, support, and inspiration to this child on his or her faith journey and, when appropriate, help the parents in the Christian formation of this child.

Please circle either YES or NO for each question:

Are you a Roman Catholic?	YES	NO
Are you at least 16 years old?	YES	NO
Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?	YES	NO
Do you attend Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays and receive the sacraments of the church regularly?	YES	NO

Answer the following only if married:

Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon  
or in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop?  
(If not please provide an explanation on a separate page.)

YES NO

Answer the following only if unmarried:

Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

YES NO

I affirm that I meet the qualifications and I accept the responsibilities of being a Catholic godparent. I am an active and participating Catholic and promise to the best of my ability to serve as an example in encouraging this child to participate in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

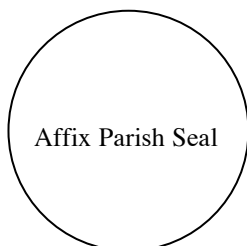
Godparent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent's Parish \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name of Godparent's parish church)

Church Address, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Godparent's Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Return completed form by mail or drop off to**  
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church  
524 N. Rush Street  
Itasca, Illinois 60143  
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## CLARIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS OF A CATHOLIC GODPARENT

Because of the great responsibilities of a godparent, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. These are set forth in the Code of Canon Law:

### SPONSORS/GODPARENTS

Can. 872 Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

### REGARDING THE QUESTIONS:

1. **Religious Denomination:** A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.
2. **Minimum Age:** A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. (Exceptions by pastor may be made with reason.)
3. **Sacraments Of Initiation:** A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
4. **Freedom To Receive The Sacraments:** The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.
5. **Marital Status:** A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony, or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church.  
Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a godparent.
6. **Unmarried Status:** If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, (e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple) is ineligible to serve.



**St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church**  
**BAPTISM WITNESS FORM**  
**FOR NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS**



**This form is to be completed, signed and returned to St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church at least two (2) weeks prior to the desired date of baptism.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of child to be baptized**  
(please print name of child being baptized)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Christian Witness**  
(please print name)

I understand and know that according to the Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be a "godparent" for baptisms in the Catholic Church, but is welcomed to be a Christian Witness to stand with a Catholic godparent at a baptism.

I am a baptized Christian, committed to my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and participate regularly in the worship of my faith in the traditions of my de-nomination.

I promise to give my support to the above child by witnessing his/her baptism and providing a Christian example for him/her lived out in my daily life.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Church  
(please print name of witness' church and Christian denomination)

Church Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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