

St. Patrick's



TRUTH • Love • *Beauty*

BAPTISM

St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church
1414 Shawnessy Blvd. SW
Calgary, AB T2Y 2L7
sacraments@stpatrickcalgary.com

Baptism Checklist

PREPARATION

Take as much time as you need to prayerfully work through the resources and seek answers to any questions you may have.

- Read through resources**
- Watch videos**
- Review requirements for Sponsor (Godparent) and Christian Witness**

PAPERWORK

Complete all the following document requirements. Gather them into one package.

- Complete the Parish Registration form**
- Complete the Baptism Registration form**
- Access the Catholic parent's baptism certificate (if both parents are Catholic, only one is required)**
- Complete the Consent to Baptism form (if applicable)**
- Contact your Sponsor (Godparent) and request a copy of their Catholic Confirmation certificate (not baptism certificate, unless it has been updated with their Confirmation information)**
- Order your child's provincial Birth Certificate (if not yet done)**

PARISH CONTACT

Once your preparation is complete and you are ready to move forward, please bring all the above-mentioned documents to the parish office and select your celebration date.

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Congratulations on the arrival of the newest addition to your family.
A child is a beautiful gift from God!

We rejoice with you in deciding to present your child for baptism
into our parish community!

As Baptism is the first sacrament that initiates us into the church, before the celebration, we recommend spending some time reflecting on your own life experience, your relationship with God and how you will share the faith with your child as they grow. This is in fact a time for a new beginning, not only for your child, but for you as well.

During this current time in the life of the world, all of us have been called to make significant changes. “Social Distancing” and “New Normal” have become parts of our vocabulary. Many events in our lives and in the life of the St. Patrick Community have either been eliminated or modified to keep everyone safe. All meetings and gatherings at our parish have been suspended for the foreseeable future. This includes our Infant Baptism Preparation Program. These guidelines have been prepared for your use at home. The goal is to help parents and godparents come to appreciate the new life the child will enter at Baptism.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

(Matthew 28:19)

These are the words spoken by Jesus moments before his return to his Father after completing his earthly work. In presenting your child for baptism, you are replying to this Great Commission!!



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Some important things...

Infant Baptism in the Church's History

The practice of infant baptism has always existed in the Catholic Church. St. Peter tells us *“repent and be baptized.... for the promise is made to you and your children.”* In the gospel we hear Jesus say, *“let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”* You and your child will be a part of a long and unbroken tradition of our Catholic faith.

The Catholic Church

A child is born in a dependent state. He/she looks to you for every need. Certainly, you provide for your child in every way possible. The one thing you cannot give your child is eternal life. In the Gospel of John, we are reminded that Jesus is *“the way, the truth and the life.”* Your child's soul cries out for God's grace...to be healed from the effects of original sin and be made holy. This is the Sacrament of Baptism. Your child will become the newest member of a spiritual family that Jesus established over 2000 years ago. Christ himself instituted all the Church's sacraments. Through the sacrament of Baptism, your child will become a member of the institution we profess to be “one, holy, catholic and Apostolic.”

Baptismal Commitment

Children learn so much from what they see and hear.... both good and bad. Parents and godparents, it is essential that from the very beginning your child sees in your words and actions the beauty of our Catholic faith. It will depend on you and the witness of your life if they are to live as faithful Catholics. Right at the beginning of the Baptism celebration, you will be asked the following questions:

Father/Deacon: “What name do you give this child?”

Parent's response: “insert all given names”

Father/Deacon: “What do you ask of God's church for your children?”

Parent's response: “Baptism”

Father/Deacon: “You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”

Parent's response: “We do”

Parents and godparents ask yourself this question: “How well are you living out your Catholic faith?” “Does your home life serve as a place where faith is nurtured and lived?”

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Your Faith

As parents, the birth of your child should help you to see things through new eyes. Has your faith been a substantial part of your life? If so, how can it continue to grow? Has your faith become stale? If so, how can it be refreshed? Allow this time of grace and prayer to remind you of the importance of our loving God who wants only the best for you and your child.

Choosing Godparents

“For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents’ help is important. So too is the role of the Godfather and Godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life”. CCC#1255

Choosing a godparent can be both exciting and difficult. Being a godparent is not simply an honor. The person/s you choose must see the role of Godparent as total commitment to nurturing this child as they grow in faith. And this includes being there as spiritual advisors for parents. Carefully discerning and choosing Godparents for your child is a very important part of the journey!

Here are the basic points outlined according to the Catholic Code of Canon Law

- † **The sponsor is appointed and helps the baptized person lead a Christian life.**
- † **The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.**
- † **The sponsor must be Catholic, have been Confirmed, received the Blessed Eucharist and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.**
- † **The sponsor must not be the mother or father of the one to be baptized.**
- † **The sponsor may be male or female, a maximum of two are allowed, one male, one female.**
- † **A non-Catholic, baptized Christian may be chosen as a Christian Witness along with the Catholic sponsor.**

Christian Witness

There can be situations where it might seem appropriate to have one godparent and one “Christian Witness.” A Christian Witness is a baptized member of another Christian Church. The Christian Witness is not necessarily a Godparent since it is the Catholic parent and Catholic Godparent who are entrusted with the responsibility handing on their Catholic Faith to the child. In permitting a Christian Witness, the Church gives recognition to that person’s love for the child and the common baptism that is shared by all followers of Christ.

Some Symbols of Baptism

White Garment The baptismal garment is a white garment either worn from the beginning of the ritual or given after pouring or immersion. It is an outward sign of the person's Christian dignity. It also signifies that the person has become a new creation and has been clothed with Christ

Water All seven sacraments of the Church are comprised of both form and matter. The form is the ritual itself, i.e. "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In Baptism the matter or the visible reality is water. The water is blessed by the priest or deacon during the baptismal rite. The water is symbolic of new life as it calls us to die to sin and rise in the fullness of life offered by Christ. The waters of baptism wash away the stain of original sin.

Light At the baptism of infants, parent and godparents are entrusted with the "Light of Christ" represented in a lit baptismal candle. This light serves to remind parents and godparents that they are charged with protecting the newly baptized child from the darkness of sin.

Oil Typically, the baptism of a child will include two anointings with blessed oils. The first is with the Oil of Catechumens applied to the child's chest. A catechumen is someone who is not baptized but is asking for Baptism. This anointing invokes Christ's power and protection in the life of the child. The second anointing is with Sacred Chrism. This oil has an aromatic scent of balsam and is used in Baptisms, Confirmation and in the ordination of priests. The anointing with chrism is the symbol of the infants sharing in the threefold ministry of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King.



Some Videos to watch...

(press the “Control” button while clicking on the link)

Pope Francis on the meaning of Baptism (2 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9-bc1RfjsA>

Sacraments 101 – Baptism - why we baptize (6 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05YB2jdHLsY>

Baptism – Catholic Central (7 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKisfEgd3IY>

Paperwork...

As a part of the worldwide Catholic church, we are committed to ensuring that all our Sacrament records are completed as per the requirements set out by our Diocese. For this reason, we ask you to return to us the following documents.

1. A completed Parish Registration form
2. A completed Baptism Registration form
3. A copy of one Catholic parents' Baptism certificate
4. A copy of the child's provincial birth certificate
5. A copy of the Catholic Godparents' Confirmation certificate

Please note that the consent of both parents is required to celebrate the Sacrament. If one parent who is not Catholic is not present at the baptism ceremony, a “Consent to Baptism” form must be completed and returned.

All these documents are to be dropped off (or sent in) together to our parish office.

Cost?...

There is never a cost to baptize as baptism is a gift freely given by God! Should you choose to offer a monetary gift, we thank you, and please know it will go directly to support the parish. The prayers of your new parish family of St. Patrick's are with you as you begin this journey of faith with your child!

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