

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH

11 Mohns Avenue
Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2B5
613-687-4764

GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM PREPARATION

Dear Parents:

Congratulations on the arrival of your new baby! Our Catholic Community joins you in thanking God for the gift of new life. You have asked us to baptize your child. The following are some guidelines to help you make this step in faith and in the journey of the Church.

A. The Sanctifying Role of the Church

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in His life in Jesus Christ and makes us His children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith of which the essential object is the Risen Christ, the salvation of all men and women. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of his/her parents, of his/her godparents and of the Church.

B. Basic Guidelines and Information for Infant Baptism

Parents are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism as soon after birth as possible.

Except in case of necessity, the church is the usual place of baptism;

In order that a child be baptized, it is necessary that...

- the parents consent, or at least one of them, or someone legally standing in their place,
- and that there be reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith;

Godparents: A person may have one or two godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, they must be male and female.

In order for someone to be eligible as a godparent, these are the requirements...

- be chosen by the parents,
- have the ability and the intention to fulfil the role,
- be at least 16 years of age, and...
- be a confirmed Roman Catholic, who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist, leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including Marriage) and will be a good role model for the one being Baptized,
- and be neither the father nor the mother of the child;
- A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a Christian witness (not a godparent) provided that there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness.

C. Preparation in our Parish

In order to respect your request to baptize your child, you are asked to follow closely the stages of preparation described below...

1. On reading this information, you will contact the parish office (687-4764), expressing your desire to have your child baptized and then download and return the following from our website:
 - a. A Baptism registration Form
 - b. A Parish Registration Form

Both of these forms are to be returned to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

 - c. At the Preparation Session you will receive a Celebration Booklet for the Rite of Baptism and
 - d. A booklet on Baptism which includes various explanations.
2. You are asked to attend Sunday Mass with our Community, if you are not now doing so, and to introduce yourself to the Priest.
3. Parents are to attend one General Meeting of Parents prior to the Baptism of their child - preferably before the birth of your child. Instead of asking parents to attend a series of meetings, you are asked to do some preparation at home. For the General Meeting of Parents, please prepare the following for the meeting:
 - a. A well thought-out answer in order to discuss these two questions:
 - i. Why are you asking the Church to baptize your child?
 - ii. Based on your response to this first question, what will be your responsibilities with respect to raising your baptized child?
 - b. If you have already attended Baptismal preparation in our Parish you may be asked to attend a refresher preparation session again and you will be asked if you attend weekly Mass. It is extremely important to take your faith-life seriously because, before God, you have taken on an awesome responsibility for the salvation of another.

D. Date and Time of General Meeting of Parents

- You will be notified by telephone and by the Parish Bulletin as to the time and date of the meeting.
- **Baptisms take place the first Sunday of each month, including holiday weekends but NOT during Lent** (except in emergencies).

E. Other Information

Military Families Living on Base – North or South PMQ and those living in another Parish:

You will be asked to consult with your Padre's office at St. Francis Assisi on Base 613-687-5511 ext. 5434 **or** with the Priest of your Home Parish to take Baptismal Preparation there and then receive a letter of recommendation from them to have your child baptized here.

Marital Status

- i. You will be asked about your marital status at the time you schedule the Baptism of your child. We will not deny the Baptism of a child if the parents are unmarried or not married in the Catholic Church. However, there may be reason to postpone Baptism if parents are not practicing the Faith, or have no intention of living a Catholic life in harmony with the Gospel. Please inquire as to how you can have your marriage blessed or, if need be, a declaration of nullity by the Church.
- ii. The above information applies to INFANT Baptism only. If you have a child to be baptized who has reached the age of reason (approx .age 7), you and they will receive different preparation. Please contact the Parish Office.

May God bless and guide you in this important step in your faith journey and the faith journey of your child.