

*Requesting to have your child baptized at St. Patrick Parish?*

*Congratulations to your family on your new child!*

*Here are the things you will need to start preparing for the Baptism.*



### Parish Membership

Are you a registered member of St. Patrick Parish?

If you have not been active in the parish for some time, you may no longer be considered as registered. Also, if you grew up in the parish but have not been active as an adult, you may not still be considered as registered. (If you are registered, you would be receiving communications from the parish and offering envelopes for the weekly collection at Mass.)

If not currently a member and you want to become a member, you may access the Parish Registration Form on our website [www.stpatrickmalvern.org](http://www.stpatrickmalvern.org) under the tab **PARISH FORMS**. If you belong to another parish, you will need a letter of permission from your parish to have the baptism at St. Patrick's.

### Choosing the Godparents

You will need to choose Godparents for your child. The Church requires at least one, however, traditionally there is a Godfather and Godmother. If there is only one Godparent, he or she must be an eligible Catholic. This is a very important choice and decision to be made. Please make it with much prayer. The role of the Godparent is to be a witness to the child of living a life of faith and the grace of the Sacraments. In this way they are a help and support to you, the parents, who are the 1<sup>st</sup> teachers of the faith to your child. So, the Catholic Church has guidelines or requirements of who can fulfill this sacred role.

### **Catholic Godparents must be...**

- **At least 16 years old**
- **Received their Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist**
- **If married, in a marriage recognized by the Church (having received the Sacrament of Marriage)**

- **Is currently a participating and faithful member of the Catholic Church through membership in a Catholic parish.**

### What documents do the Godparents need to procure?

The Catholic Godparents need to return a "Sponsor Form" that attests their fulfillment of these requirements of the Church. This form needs to be signed by the Godparent AND the pastor of their parish. Their parish seal must also be affixed. You can access the Sponsor Form from our parish website under the tab **PARISH FORMS**.

### Can a non-Catholic be a Godparent?

The Church does allow for one Godparent to be a non-Catholic "**Christian Witness,**" as long as one Godparent is an eligible Catholic. To be a Christian Witness, one would be a baptized member of a Christian faith other than Catholic.

### What documents does a Christian Witness need to procure?

A Christian Witness would need to show proof of Baptism in their Christian faith tradition by a certificate or a letter from their Church minister. They would not, therefore, fill out the Sponsor Form.

- ✓ **Please note: A baptized Catholic who no longer practices the Catholic faith is not considered a Christian Witness and therefore cannot use a Catholic Baptism certificate to suffice. Catholics must obtain an eligible Sponsor Form as explained above.**

### Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> child being baptized?

If yes, then you need to attend a pre-Baptism class. We offer these once a month on Sunday afternoons at 1:00. Currently we are offering them on Zoom. The classes last around 45 minutes to an hour.

The schedule of dates for these classes can be accessed from the Baptism section of our parish webpage.

You may sign up for the class by e-mailing Sr. Eileen Tiernan at [etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org](mailto:etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org) and noting your name and the chosen class date.

## How do I schedule the Baptism?

When you have...

- ✓ verified parish membership
- ✓ obtained the Godparent forms
- ✓ attended the Pre-Baptism class (only for 1<sup>st</sup> time Baptism parents)

... then you are ready to schedule the Baptism.

Please contact Sr. Eileen by e-mail at [etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org](mailto:etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org) to arrange an appointment to schedule the Baptism. You will need to bring with you the signed forms from the Godparents (or proof of Christian Baptism in the case of a Christian Witness).

### St. Patrick Parish Contact Information:

Sr. Eileen Tiernan (Baptism Coordinator) 610-296-8899 [etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org](mailto:etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org)

Website: [www.stpatrickmalvern.org](http://www.stpatrickmalvern.org)

