



731 Exchange St
Vermilion, OH 44089
(440) 967-8711

Baptism Registration Forms

Dear Parents,

The ancient Rite of Baptism is no mere social convention, but the beginning of divine life for your child. St. Peter writes that by the Sacrament of Baptism, Christ Himself purifies, justifies, and sanctifies (cf. 1 Peter 1:23) your child for eternal life. In preparation for this wonderful gift of new life, the parents of the child show themselves to be ready in numerous ways. Most importantly, the parents of the child to be baptized already live and practice the Catholic faith. In this way, the Church has a firm hope that the child will be raised to know, love, and serve God in this life, and be happy with Him in the next. In order to prepare for the rites themselves, certain information must be gathered by the Church which speaks to the preparedness of the parents and godparents, too.

Enclosed are the forms and guidelines for obtaining the Sacrament of Baptism for Infants (newborns—age 6) at St. Mary Parish Vermilion. We ask you to read it carefully and provide us in a timely manner with all the information requested. We rejoice with you in the birth of your child and look forward to welcoming him/her into the family of God and communion with the Holy Catholic Church.

Please contact Deacon John at our Parish Office 440-967-8711 or deacon@stmaryvermilion.org if you have any questions, comments, or words of wisdom.

May God Bless Us Everyone,

Fr. Paul Schreiner,

Checklist for the Sacrament of Baptism

For Parents:

_____ Attend a Baptism Sacramental Preparation class, either at St. Mary Parish Vermilion or at home parish. Parents who have taken a Baptism Sacramental Preparation class within the past 5 years do not need to take the class again.

_____ Complete the Baptism Request Form and turn it into the parish office, along with the following:

- **Copy of child's Birth Certificate**
- **Marriage Certificate for Parents**
- **Certificates of Attendance at a Baptism Preparation Class with in the last 5 years**
- **If you are not a parishioner of St Mary, a letter from your parish pastor granting permission for your child to be baptized at St. Mary Parish Vermilion and complete a Parishioner Registration Form for St. Mary Parish Vermilion.**
- **Completed "Godparent/Sponsor Affirmation of Faith and Morals" form from the Catholic godparent(s)**
- **Baptismal Certificate of Godparents (with notations on back)**

All paperwork must be turned into the parish office and reviewed prior to scheduling your child's baptism. The date/time of your child's baptism will only be set and confirmed once all paperwork has been received and reviewed.

For Godparents

_____ Completed "Godparent/Sponsor Affirmation of Faith and Morals" form for each Godparent. Please have the form signed by the parish pastor and stamped with parish seal. This includes registered parishioners of St. Mary, who may bring their form to the parish office for the pastor's review, signature, and seal.

*For a person to stand as a Godparent or Sponsor, the following requirements must be met:

- Be a fully initiated Catholic, that has received Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation.
- Lead a life in harmony with the faith and role of a sponsor (be a registered member of a parish for at least 6 months, attend mass on Sundays and Holy Days).
- Be at least 16 years old
- If two godparents are chosen:
- The two cannot be the same sex.
- At least one must be a practicing Catholic who can fulfill the requirements listed in this packet. If, in addition to the Catholic godparent, a non-Catholic has been chosen as a godparent, he/she may stand as a Christian witness to your child's Baptism, provided they have already been baptized.
- Not be impeded canonically from fulfilling such a role. For Catholics who are married, this means that you have been married in a Catholic Church by a member of the Catholic Clergy.

Baptism Request Form

Please print all information clearly in blue or black ink.

Name of Child: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: M F City and State of Birth _____

Was the Child Baptized Privately or at Hospital? _____

Was the Child Adopted? _____

Date requested for Baptism _____

Name of Mother: First _____ Middle _____ Maiden _____

Date & Place of Baptism _____ Confirmation _____ Religion _____

Name of Father: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Date & Place of Baptism _____ Confirmation _____ Religion _____

Family Contact Information:

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

Father's Email Address _____ Phone _____

Mother's Email Address _____ Phone _____

Place of Parent's Marriage (church or venue): _____

City, State: _____

Date of Marriage: _____

Marriage performed by:

☐ Priest ☐ Deacon ☐ Minister ☐ Judge ☐ Justice of the Peace ☐ Not married

Godparent Information:

Godfather _____ Godfather's Religion _____

Home Parish _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Godmother _____ Godmother's Religion _____

Home Parish _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Commonly Asked Questions:

When should I start making arrangements for my baby's baptism?

It is never too early. It is recommended that you begin planning for the baptism before the birth of your child.

My child is over 7 years old, is it too late to baptize them?

It is never too late to baptize your child. Children thru the age of 7 are baptized in the Infant Baptism program. Older children are taken thru the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) process adapted for children. Please reach out to our Pastoral Associate for more information.

When do Baptisms take Place at St. Mary?

We will work with you to schedule a baptism when the Baptismal Checklist is complete and all requested information has been turned into the Parish Office. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

What form do I need to have filled out to be a Godparent?

Anyone who is asked to be a sponsor/godparent must complete the Affirmation of Faith and Morals Form each time they are asked to be a godparent. After the intended godparent has filled out the majority of the form, his/her home parish fills out the last part and seals the document with the parish seal.

Can I request a Priest or Deacon to baptize my child?

You are welcome to request a specific priest or deacon. However, we cannot guarantee that a specific member of the clergy will be available.

Is there a fee for Baptism?

It is customary to offer the celebrant a Baptismal Offering (stipend) for your child's baptism. If you will be making a Baptismal Offering, please hand it to the celebrant after the baptism. You are also welcome to drop it off leading up to your child's baptism in the parish office.

When are the classes to prepare for Baptism?

Please Deacon John, fill out online form <https://forms.gle/BaptismSacramentPrep>, or call the parish office 440-967-8711 to sign up.

How many Godparents can I have, or do I need?

Each child has 1 or 2 godparents. If one is chosen, the godparent may be male or female. If two are chosen, then one must be male and the other female. At least one of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church (see Godparent Affirmation of Faith and Morals).

What if, later in our child's life, the Godparents are no longer qualified as Godparents, can we take them off the baptismal certificate?

The certificate is a record of what took place at the Baptism, so the information cannot be changed. You may wish to have someone else support your child in their faith journey, but the records do not change.

If we are not members of St. Mary, can we have our child baptized in your parish?

It is customary for each parish to manage sacraments for their own parishioners. If there is a just reason for having your child baptized at St. Mary, you must submit a letter of permission from the pastor of your home parish stating his permission for your child to be baptized at St. Mary.

What happens if a Godparent cannot attend the baptism?

One of the requirements to be a Godparent is to be able to fulfill the role, including being present at the baptism. If the Godparent cannot be present, one who can fulfill the role should be chosen. If, in the days leading up to the Baptism, a Godparent becomes ill or unable to travel to the church that Godparent must delegate in writing a proxy to stand in his/her place. The proxy must be able to fulfill all the requirements of Godparent, submit the "Godparent/Sponsor Affirmation of Faith and Morals" form that has also been signed by his/her pastor, and be the same sex as the Godparent who delegates him/her.

Godparent/Sponsor Affirmation of Faith and Morals

I. Some Basic Church Norms Concerning Godparents/Sponsors

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation, a godparent/sponsor is present. The function of the godparent/sponsor is a) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and b) to support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of godparent/sponsor if: a) he or she is more than sixteen years of age; b) is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed, has already received the Holy Eucharist, and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; and c) is neither the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a godparent/sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a godparent/sponsor; however, he or she can serve as a Christian witness at baptism, provided that there is a Catholic godparent (c. 874 2). A baptized Catholic who is sacramentally or canonically ineligible to serve as a godparent may not serve as a Christian witness. These include those who subsequently renounced the faith in favor of another church community or entity. Those unbaptized and those Baptism is not recognized by the Catholic Church may not serve in the role of Christian witness but are welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This means that the candidate for godparent/sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) prayerfully assists at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.