

### What should babies wear for the baptism?

A white garment is an ancient sign of the newly baptized Christian's life in Christ. Baptismal garments do not have to be traditional baptismal gowns. They can wear any clothing that is mainly white.

### Does Baptism cost anything?

**No.** We do not charge a fee. It is customary to give a gift (stipend) to the celebrant of the baptism. The amount is at your discretion.

### How are baptisms scheduled?

Call your parish's office to start the process. You may be required to attend a class prior to the date of the baptism. Baptisms are celebrated **at Mass** on Sunday mornings or Saturday afternoons. Mass schedule:

#### Saturdays:

4:30 p.m. - St. Mary

5:00 p.m. - St. Charles

#### Sundays:

7:30 a.m. - St. Mary

8:00 a.m. - St. Charles

9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. - St. Mary

11:00 a.m. - St. Charles  
*(Spanish)*



**BURLINGTON-LYONS**  
**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

ST. MARY • ST. JOSEPH • ST. CHARLES

## Baptism



**Very Reverend James Volkert**, Pastor  
**Reverend Ryan Ackmann**, Associate Pastor

#### Parish Offices:

St. Mary: **Kelsey Peterson**  
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St. Joseph: **Tami Koenen**  
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St. Charles: **Jami Morrow**  
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*“Baptism is the door  
of the spiritual life and the  
gateway to the sacraments.”  
-Thomas Aquinas*



## Why do we baptize infants?

Infants are baptized because through this sacrament, they are freed from Original Sin and are welcomed into the community of the Church where they have access to the fullness of the means of salvation. Parents bring their babies to the waters of baptism by professing a belief in Christ on behalf of the child and promising to raise him or her in the faith.

## Baptism at our Parishes

For a child to be baptized in the Roman Catholic Church there must be a well-founded hope that the child will be raised in the Catholic faith, and that the parent(s) or guardian(s) consent to the baptism.

In practice, this generally means that at least one parent is Catholic and registered at St. Mary, St. Joseph or St. Charles parish. Both parents must attend a baptism class, which is offered monthly, for the baptism of their first child. If there are three or less years between subsequent children, parents do not need to repeat the class. Baptism classes are taught by Ellie Schultz, our Director of Religious Education.

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays or Sundays during Mass, so that the entire community may be present and the relationship between baptism and the Eucharist may be seen. This Sacrament may be held at any time during the liturgical year.

# Common Questions About Baptism

## Do I have to be a member of this parish to have my child baptized here?

**Yes**, at least one of the parents must be a registered member of either St. Mary, St. Joseph or St. Charles, and should be practicing their faith by regularly attending Mass. If you are not yet a member, please complete a registration form and join one of our three parishes.

## May children of single parents or parents who were not married in the Church be baptized?

**Yes!** We welcome every parent to bring their child forward for baptism, no matter what the circumstances may be. Parents not married in the Roman Catholic Church should consider the possibility of having your marriage blessed in the church; parish staff will gladly assist you in that process. However, it is not a requirement.

## How do I choose a Godparent?

Who would provide the best example of Catholic living? A Godparent should not be chosen to honor a friend or family member, but for the well-being and development of your child.

## Do my child's godparents need to be Catholic?

Church law states that at least **one** of the Godparents must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic age 16 or older. If married, they should be in a valid Catholic marriage and in good standing with the Church. Catholic godparents will be asked to complete a form and have it signed by their current pastor. Only one Godparent is required. If two are desired, and the second is not Catholic, they may serve as a Christian Witness if they are baptized in another Christian denomination (e.g. Methodist, Lutheran). However, Catholics who have joined another Christian denomination are not permitted to serve as Christian Witnesses.

- During the baptism, Godparents take a vow to support and assist the parents in training the child in the practice of the Catholic faith. For this reason, one must be Catholic.



## What if my child's Godparent is unable to attend the baptism?

Church law requires that a Catholic adult be present at the baptism ceremony. You and the Godparents can designate someone to be a proxy for the absentee Godparent. If you know beforehand, please notify the parish office of the proxy's name. If it happens the day of the baptism, be sure to notify the priest – they have to note it on the documentation.

## At what age should children be baptized?

We prefer to baptize babies between three and twenty-four months, however we also welcome older children to baptism. If your child has reached the age of reason (about 7 years), we will provide them with personalized preparation designed for their age.

## Does my child need to be baptized at church?

Unless there is a serious need, baptisms are to be celebrated in a parish church. A baptism should **not** be celebrated in a private home, a private chapel, or in a hospital, except in cases of sickness or danger of death. In danger of death, the baptism is not to be delayed.

## May baptism be conferred on stillborn child?

Baptism may be conferred **if** there is indication that the child or fetus is alive. Baptism is not conferred if it is clear that the child is deceased. Parents should be comforted by the fact that their desire for the baptism of their child is sufficient for their child's salvation.

## What can be done at a parish after a child has been baptized in an emergency situation?

An infant who was baptized in an emergency may be greeted and blessed during the regular parish celebration of baptism of other infants. This should happen when the infant is of sufficient health and age.

