



Request for Infant Baptism

(for children age six and under)

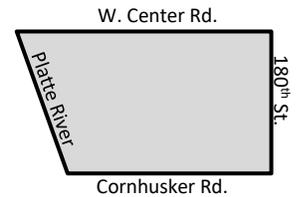
The Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for salvation and is the gateway to the life in the Spirit and the door to the other Sacraments. It is the way by which a person is freed from sins, is reborn as a child of God, is configured to Christ, is incorporated into the Church, and is made a sharer in the Church's mission (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1213).

Office Use Only	
Date _____	Time _____
Minister _____	
Class _____	
Godparent Forms _____	

Parents have a grave responsibility to present their infants for baptism as soon as possible, usually within the first weeks after birth. Parishes are to provide a catechetical program of instruction for parents and godparents which includes: the meaning of Baptism, the obligations attached to the Sacrament, the scriptural foundation for the Sacrament, the sacramental life of the Church, and the Rite of Baptism itself (*Code of Canon Law*, cann. 851 & 867; *Archdiocesan Pastoral Policies Handbook*, 3.2.1.3).

Children ages six (6) and under are considered "infants" by the Church (*Code of Canon Law*, can. 97.2). For the Baptism of infants, the parents, or at least one of them, are to give their consent. Furthermore, there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion (*Code of Canon Law*, can. 868).

As a rule, infants are baptized in the parish church of their parents, unless a just cause suggests otherwise (*Code of Canon Law*, can. 857.2). To claim St. Charles as one's proper parish, one must either live within the parish's territorial boundaries or be registered members of the parish for at least three (3) months. All other requests for baptism at St. Charles must have the permission of the pastor of St. Charles as well as the permission of the parent's proper pastor (cf. *Archdiocesan Pastoral Policies Handbook*, 3.2.1.9.e).



This form is to be filled out by a parent of the child to be baptized. Please print clearly.

Name of Child: _____ Boy Girl
First (Full) Middle (Full) Last

Date of Birth: _____ City & State of Birth: _____

Father: _____ Religion: _____
First (Full) M. Initial Last

Mother: _____ Religion: _____
First (Full) M. Initial Maiden

Home Address: _____
Street Address City, State Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Was this child adopted? Yes No (If so, is the adoption complete? Yes No)

Are you registered at St. Charles Borromeo or do you live in its territorial boundaries? Yes No
If not, please attach a letter from your proper pastor, giving permission for the baptism to take place at St. Charles.

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Selecting Godparents

The role of a sponsor (i.e., godparent) is to present with the parents an infant for Baptism and who will help the child to lead a Christian life in harmony with the Sacrament. Church law specifies the following requirements for those to be baptismal sponsors (*Code of Canon Law, can. 872-874*):

- One Catholic sponsor – male or female – is required. If there are two, one of each sex must be chosen. No more than two people may be designated as baptismal sponsors.
- Each Catholic sponsor:
 - must be at least 16 years of age,
 - must be baptized,
 - must have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church,
 - must be living a life in harmony with the faith:
 - attends Sunday Mass,
 - receives Holy Communion and Confession regularly,
 - supports the mission of the Church,
 - lives a life of virtue according to the moral teachings of the Church, and
 - if married, must be married validly according to the laws of the Catholic Church,
 - may *not* be under a canonical penalty, and
 - may *not* be the father or mother of the child.
- A baptized non-Catholic Christian may serve as a Christian Witness, but only alongside a Catholic sponsor who meets the criteria above. A Christian Witness:
 - must be validly baptized,
 - must practice his/her Christian faith, and
 - must *not* be an apostate (i.e., a baptized Catholic who subsequently left the Catholic Church).

Godfather's Full Name: _____ Religion: _____

Phone: _____

Godmother's Full Name: _____ Religion: _____

Phone: _____

Each Catholic sponsor must complete the attached Statement of Fidelity form with his/her pastor and return it to the parish office prior to being admitted to the role of godparent (cf. Archdiocesan Pastoral Policies Handbook, 3.2.1.11.c).

Scheduling Baptism

- 1) Complete this form and return it to the parish office.
- 2) Schedule with Diane at the parish office to attend a Baptism Preparation Session.
- 3) Schedule with Diane at the parish office a date for your child's Baptism.
 - *Baptisms are scheduled for Sunday mornings, usually after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. (Please note, occasionally, the pastor may schedule baptisms during Mass on a given week.)*
 - *Either a parish Priest or Deacon will be the minister of the Sacrament, according to their schedule.*
 - *Bishops, Priests, or Deacons who are relatives of the family may celebrate a Baptism at St. Charles with the pastor's permission. This should be requested by the parents when scheduling the Baptism.*

Godparent Statement of Fidelity

The role of a godparent is to present with the parents an infant for Baptism and to help the child to lead a Christian life in harmony with the Sacrament.

Baptismal Information

Full Name of Godparent: _____

Child to Be Baptized: _____

Parents of Child: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Sacramental and Canonical Information

Church law (Code of Canon Law, can. 874) establishes certain requirements for godparents. Therefore, to serve in this capacity, you must be able to affirm each of the following statements as true for you. Please answer each of the following questions with YES or NO.

_____ I understand the nature of an oath, and I promise to respond truthfully to the following statements, before Almighty God as my Witness and Judge.

_____ I have been baptized, and I am at least 16 years old.

_____ I have been confirmed in the Catholic Church.

_____ I have already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist.

_____ I am leading a life in harmony with the Catholic faith by:

- attending Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation,
- going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion at least once a year,
- supporting the mission of the Church with my time, talent, and treasure, and
- observing the days of fasting and abstinence from meat.

_____ I am living in conformity with the Marriage laws of the Church:

- If single, I am chaste (i.e., not cohabiting or simulating married life).
- If married, my present Marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church, and I am faithful to my spouse.

Oath and Statement of Intention

I solemnly swear to the truthfulness of my answers. I intend to assist the child's parents in their duty as Christian parents in raising and educating the child in the practice of the Catholic faith.

Signature of Godparent

Date

Signature of Godparent's Pastor

Parish
Seal