

## Godparent Requirements

Godparents play a vital role in the faith of a child. They represent the Catholic Church at Baptism and serve as a role model throughout the child's life by living a fully Christian life.

- A godparent is a fully initiated Catholic who is in good standing with the church and is over the age of 16.
- There are usually two godparents, but only one is required.
- As per Canon Law, only one godparent can be male and one female.
- If one of your choices is not a Catholic, they can serve as a Christian witness. They must have been baptized in another denomination - they cannot be a baptized Catholic who is not practicing the Catholic faith. While this person is referred to as a Christian Witness, his/her role in the rite of Baptism is the same as the Catholic godparent.
- Godparents/witnesses must complete and return the Sponsor Eligibility Form (enclosed) at least three weeks before the baptism. Without this form we will not be able to allow the desired person to serve in either of these roles.

## Elizabeth Ministry "Women Reaching Out to Women"

Elizabeth Ministry is an outreach to support women and their families during the joys, challenges and sorrows of the childbearing years. The Elizabeth Ministry mission is to cherish children, encourage families and build community.

Elizabeth Ministry is based upon the Scripture story of the visitation of Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45). Following the example of Mary and Elizabeth, we visit and share the sacredness of all life.

Elizabeth Ministry offers support in the form of visits, prayers, e-mail and phone calls, resources, and other assistance for women who are expecting or hoping to expect, as well as those adopting, experiencing infertility, or have suffered a loss.

If you would be interested in serving in the Elizabeth Ministry or if you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, please contact Rachael Blake at [moonbeam43078@yahoo.com](mailto:moonbeam43078@yahoo.com) or 225-205-8440.

# St. George Catholic Church Baptism Guide

## Baptism Schedule

Month	Pre-Baptism Seminar	Baptism Dates	When	Notes
April	11th*	21st	During Mass	*11:30 am only
May	16th	18th & 19th	After Mass	
June	20th	22nd & 23rd	During Mass	
July	18th	20th & 21st	After Mass	
August	15th	17th & 18th	During Mass	
September	19th	21st & 22nd	After Mass	
October	17th	19th & 20th	During Mass	
November	14th	16th & 17th	After Mass	
December	12th	14th & 15th	During Mass	

### Pre-Baptism Seminar

Most pre-baptism seminars are held on the Thursday prior to baptism in the Kleinpeter Activity Center (St. from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

- The dates that are asterisked have been schedule on alternate days/dates due to facility availability. Parents must attend and Godparents are strongly encouraged.

### During Mass

When baptisms are celebrated during mass, you may choose from the 4:00 PM mass on Saturday, or the 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM masses on Sunday.

### After Mass

When baptism are celebrated after mass, you may choose from after the 4:00 PM on Saturday, or the 11:30 AM mass on Sunday.



# St George Baptism Ceremony

Held During Mass

## Before Mass Begins

1. Arrive at church at least 30 minutes before the chosen mass begins. All should meet in the main lobby of church for baptism preparation activities (nametags, verification of information & instructions). The Host couple will review ceremony with parents and godparents.
2. The Godmother will be given the baby's white garment. The Godfather will be given the baptismal candle. Both of these items are to be brought up by godparents for baptism after the homily by priest.
3. For immersions, parents are given a large towel to wrap the undressed, diapered baby in before and after the baptism.
4. Parents, godparents, children, and close family have reserved seating in front pews. Pews are reserved by the host couple. Parents and godparents should sit nearest the center aisle.
5. Host couple will select one family to serve as gift bearers after baptism and inform ushers at that Mass.

## Opening Mass Procession and Ceremony

1. Parents, baby, godparents and siblings are brought to the main lobby by the host couple 5 minutes before Mass begins. All will walk in the opening procession, and will follow the lectors while carrying the child to be baptized.
  - When all reach the steps of the sanctuary, siblings should be seated. Parents and godparents will bow, and go to the top level with backs to the altar, and face the assembly. The mother or father should hold the baby.
  - After greeting, the priest will ask "What name they are giving their child?" (Full name) and "What do you want for your child this day?" (Baptism) After each question, answer in a LOUD VOICE so the assembly may hear.
  - The godparents will then be asked by the priest "Are you willing to assist the parent in the task of raising the child in the Catholic faith?" Answer again in a LOUD VOICE.
  - The priest and deacon will sign the child and ask the parents and godparents to do the same. Everyone will then be seated for the readings and the homily.
2. In case of immersion, parents should quietly undress the baby to the diaper and wrap in a towel during the homily.
3. After the homily, one of the host couple will get the Oil of Catechumens (OC) and stand near priest. The priest will ask the parents and godparents to come back to the top level of the sanctuary for the anointing of the Oil of Catechumens. The child's dress or shirt should be open at the chest before you go into the sanctuary. Oil is returned to case by host couple.
4. After the anointing, the parents and godparents will exit the sanctuary and wait, as directed on the ramp. The priest will then call each family when he is ready for baptism. Immersions will be last.
5. After the actual baptisms, the parents and godparents will return to the front top level of the sanctuary. One of the host couple will get Oil of Chrism (SC) to bring to priest. Child is anointed on head. Oil is returned. The godmother will place the white baptismal garment on the child. The godfather with the assistance of the host couple or the deacon will light the candle from the paschal candle and present it to the father.
6. The priest will then given congratulations and allow you to be seated.
7. The family selected to bring up the gifts should go to the rear of church.

# St George Baptism Ceremony

Held After Mass

## Before Mass/Ceremony Begins

1. Couples are expected and encouraged to attend mass prior to the baptism. Please arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to mass in the church lobby. Host couples will greet you and provide nametags, verify information and give instructions.

If you are not attending mass, promptly at the end of mass (5 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday) in the lobby of church.
2. Immediately after mass, the priest, deacon, and host couples will gather those families who are seeking baptism to be seated in the side chair area and side pew area next to the baptistery. Couples not attending mass will be checked in at that time.

## During Ceremony

1. The introductory rites for baptism will begin. The Presider will invite the parents and godparents to stand in the sanctuary facing their families for the opening rites, which include naming the child and signing of the child's forehead with the cross by all. All are seated for the readings.
2. A brief homily will be given.
3. After the homily, the parents and godparents will be invited to come back into the sanctuary facing their families. The Presider (and deacon) will face the parents and godparents.

The presider will do the intercessory prayers, which will lead into the Litany of Saints. While the Litany of Saints is being prayed, the host couple or the deacon will get the Oil of Catechumens (OC) and bring to the priest. The anointing with the Oil of Catechumens is performed on the child's chest. (If the child is dressed, the child's chest must be made accessible for anointing.)

All will be invited to do the renunciation of sin and profession of faith. Then, each child will be baptized as a family unit.

For immersion, the child must be undressed with diaper and a large towel. The musicians will sing the acclamation after each baptism.

4. As the baptism of the child is completed, the parents and godparents will go back and stand where they were previously standing. Host couple or deacon will get the Oil of Chrism (SC). The anointing with Chrism Oil is done on the child's head. Then the clothing with baptismal garment by the godmother, and the giving of the baptism candle by the godfather is done. After, the musicians sing the appropriate acclamation.
5. To conclude the ceremony, the Lord's Prayer is said by all. A final blessing is given. As the ceremony concludes, the musicians play an instrumental.

## Parents' Prayer

Loving God, you show us a father's generosity and a mother's nurturing care.

So we focus now on what is most precious to us- our children.

We bring you our hopes as well as our failures; our deep longings for you as well as our sense of human limitations.

Help us to become the kind of parent you have always been to us.

Through our own love for them, we glimpse your

unlimited love for us.

