

**BAPTISM GUIDELINES**  
**ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Liturgist

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Congratulations on the gift of life with which God has so richly blessed you!

These *Baptism Guidelines* are an important tool for you to use when planning this sacrament for your child. We want this baptism to be a special time for your entire family, a moment truly filled with the grace of God.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. Baptism makes us members of the body of Christ – we are members of one another. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (*The Catechism of the Catholic Faith*)

We hope that you take these words to heart as you plan your child’s Baptism. We are here to assist you in that planning and to perform this important ceremony.

**Please read these *Guidelines* carefully.** They are meant to eliminate any confusion and stress as you plan your child’s ceremony. If you have questions after attending the Baptism Class, please contact the office as soon as possible.

### Requirements:

1. Preferably both, but at least one godparent, must be a *confirmed*, practicing Catholic. The godparents must be one male and one female godparent. You may have one Christian witness if you only have one Catholic godparent. A Christian witness is a baptized Christian who regularly attends a Christian church and practices his or her faith.
2. Parents and godparents, whether Catholic or not, must attend a Baptism class either here or at their home parish. A letter from the parish where the class was taken must be sent to St. Peter.
3. Godparents must fill out our Godparent Eligibility Form found on the website, and have it signed by their pastor.
4. Children six years of age and older who are to be baptized will need to take a religious formation class. We can help you determine which class is best for your child.
5. All baptismal record forms, including any exit permission forms and/or letters from other parishes, must be completed and returned 10 days before the scheduled baptism. The diocese is now requiring a copy of the child's birth certificate to be submitted with all the paperwork.

### Baptism Class:

1. You are encouraged to attend class prior to the birth or adoption of your child, so that there is no delay when you are ready to have your child baptized.
2. The Baptism Class is held in the large conference room. You *must* pre-register in order to attend the class by calling or emailing Dcn Doug. (dflinn@diocs.org)
3. Diocesan rules state that you must attend a baptism class if it has been 2 or more years since the baptism of your last child. If it has been more than two years, parents and godparents need to attend the class no matter how many older, baptized children they have.

### Baptism Ceremony:

1. Baptisms are scheduled through the main office.
2. Baptisms can be celebrated within Mass or outside of Mass.
3. Baptism certificates are usually ready for you to pick up the day of the baptism.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you want a deacon or priest not from St. Peter parish to celebrate the baptism, the visiting deacon or priest must send a letter of good standing through the proper diocesan channels.