

ALL SAINTS PARISH



Forming the saints God is calling us to be by providing faithful teaching, authentic worship, and compassionate service. Our faith and actions nourish engaged Catholics, inspire unengaged Catholics, and invite all to Christ's Church.

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

We are thrilled to hear of the gift of life that God has given you. Life is a blessing, and we need to celebrate it! As you prepare for this gift and treasure, we want to bring your attention to a few common questions that we get as the joy of a new child is approaching:

How long do I wait to have my child baptized? It is best to have the child baptized sooner rather than later. A good time range is between two weeks and one month of age. However, if your child becomes ill or is in danger of death while in the hospital, it is best to have the child baptized as soon as possible~ call the priest or deacon right away. If your child is baptized in the hospital, a rite of welcoming (which involves the normal external signs - white garment, candle, anointings, blessings, etc.) can take place in the church at a later date. You can schedule a date prior to the birth of your child.

What do I need to consider when choosing a godparent? Please pray about your selection of a godparent; it is a great blessing to surround your children with authentic witnesses to the faith. Please note, that the culture of choosing a sibling might no longer be your best option. We ask that you watch the video, "Choosing Godparents for Baptism" also found on our website at <https://allsaintscatholic.net/worship/sacraments/>.

You must choose at least one (1) godparent who is a practicing Roman Catholic living an exemplary life in the Faith (attends weekly Mass, goes to confession, was confirmed and is married in the Church etc.). A great question is: who would insist on my child remaining a Roman Catholic, and would make that happen, even if I, God forbid, left the faith or grew lukewarm in my faith! A separate form must be completed to attest to the Godparent's life in the Church. It is customary for children to have two (2) godparents (one male and one female). If both godparents are Roman Catholic, they must both meet all of the above criteria. As stated above, you only need to have one "Catholic" godparent. For your second godparent, you may choose a "Christian witness," to support your child in the ways of the faith. This "Christian witness" must be a baptized Christian (at least 16 years of age) who is an active, participating member in the church which they attend. Those who have been baptized Catholic and are practicing another Christian tradition (Catholics who have left the practice of Catholicism) are not eligible to be a Christian Witness or Godparent.

How do I select a date for the baptism? What about the location? You can fill out the Baptism Request Form found on our parish website at <https://allsaintscatholic.net/worship/sacraments/>. You can also contact the Parish Office at (812-576-4302). Baptisms can be done during Holy Mass by Fr. Meyer or Fr. Hollowell, and outside of Mass by Deacon Bob Decker or Deacon Mark Schmidl.

The schedule for baptisms during Mass is as follows:

St. Martin Campus: Saturday-During the 4:00pm Vigil Mass

St. Paul Campus: Sunday – During the 7:30am Mass

St. John Campus: Sunday – During 9:15am Mass

St. Joseph Campus: Sunday – During the 11:00am Mass

Times and locations outside of Mass with one of our deacons can vary.

Please Note: Baptisms cannot take place on Christmas, Easter Sunday, May Crowning, Corpus Christi, or other major liturgical celebrations.

A tentative date, time and location will be discussed, ***but the Godparent Form/Christian Witness Form must be completed, returned to the parish office and approved before the baptism date is confirmed.***

Does my house need to be blessed before the baptism, and is there a baptismal preparation class? Part of the preparation needed for welcoming a Christian child into this world is the blessing of your home. Here in Dearborn County, we incorporate a home blessing with your pre-baptismal instruction. ***There is not a class that needs to be taken or attended- we come to you!*** Please consider contacting the office NOW, before the birth of your child, to schedule a time for the priest or deacon to visit your home. If this is not your first child, or if your home has already been blessed, this step is not necessary.

Do I need to be a member of a parish to have my child baptized? Yes! The registration process is really easy- just contact the Parish Office. Please complete the Baptism Request and Registration Form & the Godparent Form prior to your child's baptism which can be found at our website: <https://allsaintscatholic.net/worship/sacraments/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Meyer at frmeyer@dccatholics.com.

In His service,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, and the signature on the right is for Rev. John J. Hollowell. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer

Rev. John J. Hollowell