



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Our Lady of Lourdes Roman
Catholic Church

Erath, Louisiana

Baptism Guidelines

Welcome to the Baptism Program at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church! We look forward to meeting you and working with you as you prepare your child for the first stage of their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. *Holy 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. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.* Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213

Note: If you, as parents are not registered parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church and live outside of the territorial boundaries of this Church Parish, your child cannot be baptized without written permission from the Pastor of the Catholic Church Parish in your town/city or where you are registered as a parishioner. The written permission is to be included in the packet when it is brought to the Church Parish Office. If you attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Erath and live within the territorial church boundaries, you may register as parishioners at any time. This is in accordance with Universal Church Law to which all ordained and lay faithful are bound.

Required Church Documents

The following documents **must be turned into the Church Parish Office** at least one week prior to the baptism. Parents and Godparents must register and attend a Holy Baptism Seminar at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church Parish held at 2:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month in the Church Parish Office conference room or attend a seminar in another Church Parish (proof of attendance must be provided) prior to the baptism. Parents and Godparents must fill out, sign and return the enclosed Sacramental Information forms. Godparents must also sign the enclosed permission form and have it signed and sealed by their pastor in the church parish in which they attend Mass.

If not civilly married, couples must submit:

✘ Proof of live birth: a copy of the Certificate of Live Birth with the State Seal or a copy of the Certificate of Live Birth from the Hospital with the Hospital Seal or a notarized affidavit with two witnesses.

Godparents (who are not parishioners here) must submit:

✘ The enclosed Pastor's Certification permission form signed and sealed by their Pastor validating their eligibility to serve as a sponsor for Holy Baptism.

Sacred Duty of the Parents

Why do you want your child baptized?

You desire your child to be baptized because Jesus Christ commands us to be baptized. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (John 3: 5). Holy Baptism is the Holy Sacrament which initiates a soul on the path to Eternal Life. Holy Baptism requires loving not just the body of your child, but, more importantly, the immortal soul of your child.

Neither "magic" nor "superstition."

With the Sacrament of Holy Baptism comes a way of life, a creed by which to live. It makes no sense to have a child baptized if we have no intention of teaching the child the ways of Jesus Christ and His One True Holy Roman Catholic Church. If we rarely attend Holy Mass, if we are rarely present to Mother Church, then we are turning the Holy Sacrament into "magic" and "superstition." Holy Mother Church is very clear in Her teaching: **Holy Baptism is not an isolated event or a one time ceremony!**

A Promise to Almighty God.

These are the Sacred Promises that you will make to Almighty God during the Rite of Holy Baptism, for which you will have to answer to Almighty God at the end of your life. Ponder these promises. Begin now to prepare your heart to make them and to live them. Do not promise God something you have no intention of fulfilling.

Priest: *You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the Faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's Commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?*

Parents: *We do.*

Later in the ceremony the Priest will again direct his attention to the parents. Holy Baptism is not just about a little child; it is also about the faith of the parents.

Priest: *Parents and Godparents, you have come here to present this child for Baptism...On your part you must make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the Faith.... If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own Baptism. Reject sin. Profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the Faith of the Church. This is the Faith in which this child is about to be Baptized.*

Choosing the Godparents

A single question is addressed directly to the Godparents during the Rite of Holy Baptism and underlies their role:

Priest: *Are you ready to help the parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?*

Godparents: *We are.*

Are you ready? Godparents are called to represent what is the concern of the entire Holy Roman Catholic Church. The concern of Holy Mother Church is that the child to be baptized is brought up in the ways of the One True Faith and so are rightly called sponsors of the child.

Before someone can be considered for the role of Godparent, Mother Church is obligated to determine whether or not that person is truly ready and capable of assisting the parents in their own responsibilities.

Sacred Duty of the Godparents

To be a Godparent, **one must be sixteen years of age and Confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church**, have already received their First Holy Communion; if married, they must follow the Marriage Laws of the Roman Catholic Church, and must lead an active life of faith. A Baptized person who is not a Roman Catholic is unable to participate as a Godparent except along with a Roman Catholic sponsor and then only as a Christian Witness of the Holy Baptism. One who is not Baptized may neither be a Godparent nor a Christian Witness.

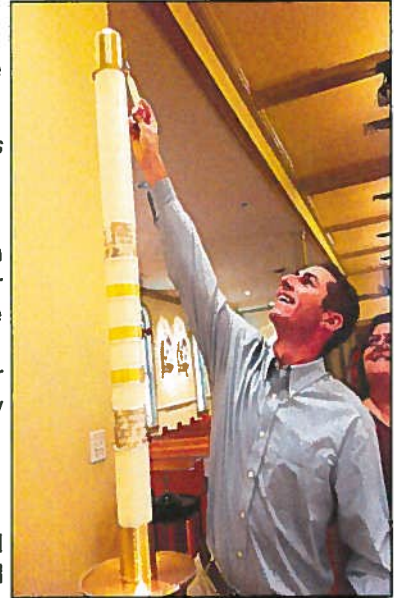
Since Godparents are envisioned by the Rite of Holy Baptism as helping the parents fulfill their duty in nourishing the spiritual growth of the child, it is inappropriate to have a child or children undertake this role.

Godparents should live the Roman Catholic Faith in a visible fashion by faithfully attending Holy Mass every Sunday and every Holy Day of Obligation, must make regular use of the Sacrament of Holy Confession, and calling on a Priest for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick when seriously/gravely ill and before any surgery. If married, the Godparent is to be in a valid Sacramental Marriage blessed by a Priest or Deacon of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

At least one Godparent must be present for the Ceremony, with another person of proper age and faithfulness "standing in" for the Godparent who is unable to attend. This stand-in is referred to as a proxy. A proxy must be eligible to serve and must fulfill all the requirements.

If the parents are not married Sacramentally (*by a Priest or Deacon in the Holy Roman Catholic Church*) then two Godparents are required to be in attendance having fulfilled all necessary requirements to be eligible. If one or both Godparents are unable to attend then a proxy for each Godparent must be present and must have fulfilled all requirements to be eligible.

At a future date, when the child celebrates the Rite of Holy Confirmation, he/she is encouraged to retain one of the Holy Baptism sponsors as the Holy Confirmation sponsor, especially if that person has played a significant role in the child's growth in the Holy Roman Catholic Faith.



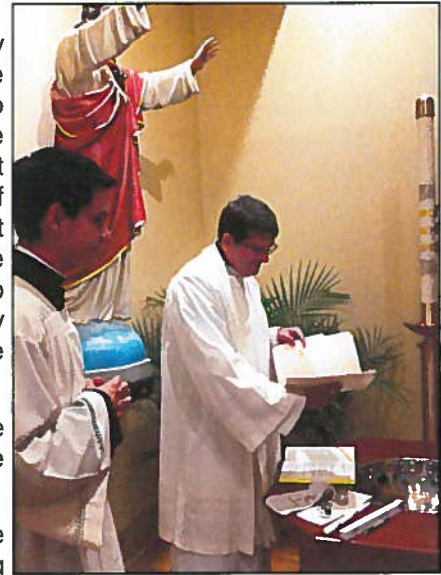
The Holy Baptism Ceremony

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is usually celebrated immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass, or as agreed upon with the Pastor. All paperwork must be submitted and in order, prior to scheduling the date of the ceremony and must be submitted to the church parish office, one week prior to the ceremony so that certificates can be prepared. Please remember the Sacredness of the ceremony by the manner in which you are dressed and present yourselves in God's Holy House, the Church. This is especially the case regarding the Parents and Godparents. No gum chewing, no shorts, no flip-flops, no revealing blouses or skirts, no torn or ratty denim jeans, etc. Holy Modesty in dress and appearance is the order of the day.

Photography: Feel free to take pictures at any time during the ceremony, keeping in mind the importance of not disturbing the prayer of the assembly.

White Garment: We kindly ask that you dress your child in white clothes (baptismal gown, or white suit, etc.) If you choose to bring a separate white garment to place on your child's chest at this time during the ceremony, you are most welcome to do so, please inform the Celebrant of this reality.

Fee: There is no fee for Holy Baptism. If you would like to make a donation to the Church or to the Celebrant of the Sacrament, you may do so. The amount is of your choosing.



Living the Holy Roman Catholic Faith in the Home

The Second Vatican Council ardently reminds us that the primary responsibility for the Christian education of children rests upon the parents. The following suggestions will assist you to accomplish this Sacred Duty:

✘ Begin by choosing a Holy Catholic Saint name for your child. Teach him/her about his/her Saint throughout his/her life. Celebrate the Saint's Feast Day with your child; this is his/her "name day."

✘ Encourage family prayer at a young age. The Blessing Before Meals, Bedtime Prayers, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and the Act of Contrition should be a daily part of every Roman Catholic's home education. The Holy Rosary is a wonderful prayer with children because they learn by repetition. They also feel important if they have their own personal Rosary.

✘ Celebrate special anniversaries. Remember and celebrate the anniversaries of Holy Baptism, First Confession, First Holy Communion and Holy Confirmation, make these days important. They have special meaning for us as Roman Catholics and especially for children.

✘ Use Sacramentals in your home. Display the Crucifix prominently, a picture or a statue of the Blessed Mother, an Advent Wreath during Advent and a Nativity Scene during Christmas. Emphasize penance and fasting during Lent. Use blessed candles and holy water in your home. Have your home and car blessed. These Sacramentals are a way of absorbing Roman Catholic values and practices and retaining a sense of the sacred all around us.

✘ Worship as a family. Attend Holy Mass together and receive the Holy Sacraments together, including the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Try to avoid choosing Holy Mass "cafeteria style." Consider going to daily Holy Mass during Advent and Lent and the Easter Season. It is tough, but that is what our children will remember. The old adage is true: **The family that prays together, stays together.**

✘ Speak about the Roman Catholic Faith and encourage the reading of Roman Catholic material, from the Bible to the Church Bulletin. There are several Catholic bookstores in the area which contain good Roman Catholic reading material for all age groups. **The manner in which you live your life on earth and teach your children how to live on earth is how you will spend your eternity.** *March 2014*

JMJ

Please print neatly so that correct spelling is available for the Church Certificate of Holy Baptism.

Full Baptism Name of the Child

Date of Birth

City and State of Birth

Yes No Was your child baptized by anyone in an emergency?
If "yes", by whom: _____

Yes No Is your child adopted? If "yes", enclose copy of adoption papers with this packet.

JMJ

Parents General Information

Father's Full Name

Mother's Full Maiden Name

Physical Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

City, State, Zip Code

Family's Home Telephone Number

Family's Roman Catholic Church Parish

Father's and Mother's Work Telephone Numbers

Family's Church Envelope Number

Father's Cellular Number

Mother's Cellular Number

All the above information must be completed. Do not leave any line blank.

JMJ

Parents Sacramental Information

Father's Sacramental Information:

Mother's Sacramental Information:

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents Names: _____

Parents Names: _____

Yes No Holy Baptism?

Yes No Holy Baptism?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Which Religion? Catholic

Which Religion? Catholic

Other _____
(Name of other Religion)

Other _____
(Name of other Religion)

Yes No Received First Holy Communion?

Yes No Received First Holy Communion?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Confirmation?

Yes No Received Holy Confirmation?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Matrimony?

Yes No Received Holy Matrimony?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Is it a Sacramental Marriage—
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

Yes No Is it a Sacramental Marriage—
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

Yes No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

Yes No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

Yes No Are you the birth father?

Yes No If unmarried, will the "birth

Yes No Are you named as the "birth
father" on the State Certificate
of Live Birth?

father" be named on the State
Certificate of Live Birth?

Yes No Baptismal Certificate Provided

Yes No Baptismal Certificate Provided

The Parents who are living and present in the life of the child are to sign and date the following promise:

We (I) promise to God and to His Holy Roman Catholic Church that we (I) will nurture our (my) child in the active practice of the Holy Roman Catholic Faith and all that entails, so help me God.

_____/_____/_____
Signature of the Father Date

_____/_____/_____
Signature of the Mother Date

Having completed all these forms, you are now ready to Register for the Holy Baptism Seminar. Call the Rectory Office at 337-937-6888 to register for the Holy Baptism Seminar. If you do not adhere to these instructions FULLY and have not completed all these forms FULLY, then your child's Holy Baptism will be postponed until all the requirements are met. These instructions are in compliance with the Catechism of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, published in 1994, and with the Revised Code of Canon Law, published in 1999. These are not meant to make things difficult; only to ensure that things are prepared properly for your child's benefit.

JMJ

Godparents Sacramental Information

Godfather's Full Name

Date of Birth:

Parents Names:

Yes No Holy Baptism?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

What Religion? Roman Catholic

Other _____
(Name of other Religion)

Yes No Received First Holy Communion?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Confirmation?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Matrimony?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Is it a Sacramental Marriage—
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

Yes No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

Yes No Holy Baptismal Certificate Provided

Godmother's Full Name

Date of Birth:

Parents Names:

Yes No Holy Baptism?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

What Religion? Roman Catholic

Other _____
(Name of other Religion)

Yes No Received First Holy Communion?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Confirmation?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Received Holy Matrimony?

Where _____
(Name of Roman Catholic Church)

Yes No Is it a Sacramental Marriage—
blessed by a Priest or Deacon?

Yes No Attend Holy Mass every Sunday
and all Holy Days of Obligation?

Yes No Holy Baptismal Certificate Provided

The Godparents of the child are to sign and date the following promise. If the Godparents live out of town, mail this form to them. The signatures of both Godparents are required before registering for the Holy Baptism Seminar.

I promise to God and to His Holy Roman Catholic Church that I meet all the requirements regarding the role and sacred duty of assisting the parents of this child. I attend Holy Mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation. If I am married, it is a Sacramental Marriage blessed by a Priest or Deacon of the holy Roman Catholic Church. If I am not married, I am living a life of celibate chastity, and living according to the Law of Christ and His Holy Roman Catholic Church, so help me God.

Signature of the Godfather

Date

Signature of the Godmother

Date

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
700 South Broadway Street
Erath, Louisiana 70533
Telephone: 337-937-6888 X Facsimile: 337-937-8650

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This form must be completed and returned to be on file at
Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church Parish Office
one week prior to the Holy Baptism.

Dear Sponsor of Holy Baptism,

When parents choose a Sponsor for the Holy Baptism of their child (Godparent), it means that person is thought of as being a special Roman Catholic. The call to be a Godparent bears the responsibility of giving spiritual example to one's Godchild as well as the example of how to live the True Roman Catholic Faith in daily life.

As a Confirmed Roman Catholic, you are to be a guide and model of how a mature Roman Catholic should live. By being faithful to God's Eternal Law, by being active in the life of the Church Parish, by participating in Holy Mass every Sunday and every Holy day of Obligation, and by living the values established by Jesus Christ in the Holy Gospel, you offer tremendous support to parents who commit themselves, in the Rite of Holy Baptism, to faithfully pass on the True Roman Catholic Faith to their children. If you are married, it must be a Sacramental Marriage blessed by a Priest or Deacon of the Roman Catholic Church.

Therefore, it is crucial that you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the serious responsibility that you accept as a Godparent. If you are unable to live according to the ideals expected of a Godparent, or live according to the Teachings of Holy Mother Church, you must decline this responsibility for the good of the child and for the Glory of God.

I, _____
Godparent's Name (clearly printed)

of _____
Church Parish of Godparent (clearly printed)

accept the invitation to be Godparent to _____
Child's Name (first, middle, last) (Clearly printed)

for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church at Erath, Louisiana.

I truthfully affirm that I am a Baptized and Confirmed Roman Catholic, living and practicing the Roman Catholic Faith and that I am in good standing with Holy Mother Church (I am able to receive the Sacraments within the Holy Roman Catholic Church). I clearly understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide and role model to my Godchild, through my own example and by my witness within the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

(Signature of Godparent) _____
(Date)

Pastor's Certification

This is to certify that _____ is known to me and is in good
(Name of Godparent)
standing in this Church Parish and that he/she meets the requirements for being a Godparent.

Church Parish _____
(Name of Church Parish) _____
(Date)

Pastor's Signature: _____
(Please affix the Official Church Seal)