

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREPARING for BAPTISM



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Gonzales, Louisiana 70737
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Schedule of Baptismal Seminars and Baptisms

Seminar	Baptism
Monday Monday 6:30-8:30	Sunday after 11:00 am Mass
July 6, 2020	July 5, 2020
August 3, 2020	August 2, 2020
September 8, 2020	September 6, 2020
October 5, 2020	October 4, 2020
November 2, 2020	November 1, 2020
December 7, 2020	December 6, 2020
January 4, 2021	January 3, 2021
February 8, 2021	February 7, 2021
March 8, 2021	March 7, 2021
April 5, 2021	April 4, 2021
May 3, 2021	May 2, 2021
June 7, 2021	June 6, 2021
July 5, 2021	July 4, 2021
August 2, 2021	August 1, 2021
September 6, 2021	September 5, 2021
October 4, 2021	October 3, 2021
November 8, 2021	November 7, 2021
December 6, 2021	December 5, 2021

**Dates subject to change depending on special circumstances

ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE A BAPTISM DATE MAY BE SCHEDULED

1. Request for Baptism by expectant parent(s):

Complete a copy of the baptism information packet. These are available at the parish office or on the parish website **stmark.weconnect.com**. It is suggested that you do this approximately (3) three months prior to the expected birth. The baptism of an infant involves a pledge from adult believers – the infant’s parents – that they wish to share with their child the faith of the Catholic Church.

2. Preparation Seminar:

Parents & Godparents/Christian Witnesses must attend a Baptism Seminar. These are usually held on the Monday after the first Sunday of the month. If you have completed a Baptism Seminar at St. Mark or another Catholic Church within the past (3) three years, you will not be expected to attend the seminar again. If this applies, verification is required.

3. Requirements:

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic that is involved in the parish community as much as possible. If you are not, you are expected to begin doing so as a visible sign of your commitment to the Church and your desire for baptism for your child. Grandparents or any other relative cannot substitute for this requirement unless they have legal custody of the child.

If you are not married according to the norms of the Catholic Church, you are expected to consult with the Pastor, who will determine the exact difficulty, and offer pastoral support and options for correcting the situation if possible.

4. Godparents:

Those persons you select to be godparents/Christian witness shall be persons:

- other than parents (yourselves)
- Catholic (at least one must be Catholic) or Christian Witnesses (regularly practicing their faith)
- At least sixteen (16) years of age
- Confirmed (if Catholic)

- Baptized, non-confirmed, Catholic, not registered or not practicing Catholic or a Catholic who is married outside of the church *may not* be a Christian Witness.

5. Celebration of Baptism:

As a general rule, Baptism is administered at St. Mark on the first Sunday of the month, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Families of those to be baptized will have a reserved pew at the 11:00 a.m. Mass

6. If you wish to have your child baptized in another parish you must receive permission from your home pastor to do so. You will still be required to complete the preparation session and honor all expectations as stated in numbers 1-6

Q & A

Is there a fee for the Baptismal Seminar or the Baptism itself?

No, there is no fee. However, it is customary that there be a stipend.

The suggested stipend is \$50.00. If you are unable to do this, understand that it is not a requirement but a way of expressing our appreciation for their services.

I want my best friend to be my child's Godparent but he/she is not Catholic?

They would be considered a Christian Witness and not a Godparent.

Christian Witness means baptized in another faith. A Christian Witness must attest to regularly practicing their Christian faith.

Persons who have been Baptized Catholic but not Confirmed in the Catholic Faith, are not eligible to be a Godparent.

May I select a divorced sponsor(s) to be a godparent?

Yes, if a divorced person is living a single lifestyle in keeping with the Commandments and fulfilling all of the obligations of the Church with regard to the sacraments, he or she CAN be a Godparent. There is no "penalty" for divorce except the prohibition from marriage in the Church until the person's freedom to marry is declared through the annulment process.