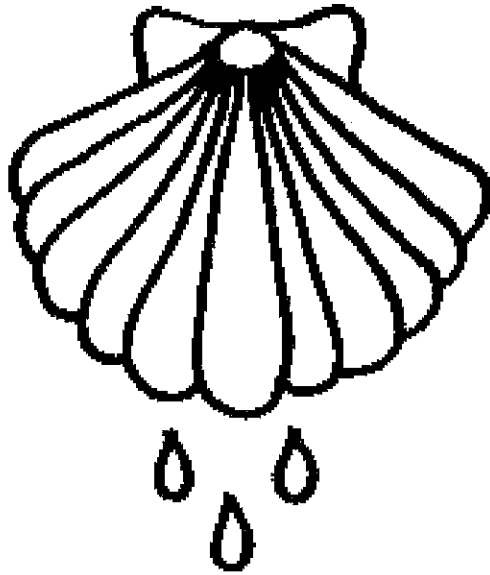


Baptism for Infants & Children
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Ypsilanti, MI



“As Christians, through the Holy Spirit received in Baptism, we have the gifts of faith and commitment to live as children of God and as brothers, to be the "leaven" of a new humanity, in solidarity and full of peace and hope.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

General Policies:

- Baptism is ordinarily celebrated by a member of the Catholic clergy (bishop, priest, deacon) in the parish to which the family of the child belongs.
- The sacrament employs water contained in a baptismal font and the child may be immersed or sprinkled with this water.
- Children should be baptized as near to their births as possible.
- Children should be baptized in a common celebration. The celebration of this sacrament is not properly considered "private."
- Those to be baptized should be assigned at least one (and normally, two) godparent(s) who must be practicing Catholic(s). Other witnesses may attend and need not be Catholic to do so but are not permitted to serve as godparents. If assigned godparents cannot attend the baptism, another member of the Catholic faith must act as their proxy.
- Baptisms are not forbidden during Lent but are generally discouraged.

Specific Policies at St. John the Baptist

1. Those wishing to have their children baptized at St. John the Baptist should be **registered members for at least three months and active, contributing members of the parish**. To arrange a baptism and to begin the preparation, please contact the parish office no less than **three months** in advance. Baptisms will not be scheduled until all canonical paperwork required by the Church is received by the parish office.
2. Those wishing to register for the sacrament of baptism and for the preparatory course, for their children, **must contact the parish office directly** during normal business hours at 483-3360 to schedule. Pre-registration is required for families that need to take the pre-baptism course.
3. Godparents who are not members of St. John the Baptist must obtain a **Letter of Recommendation** (also known as "Letter of Good Standing") from their home parish and this letter should be mailed directly to St. John the Baptist. Godparents will not be admitted to participate if this recommendation is not received at least 3 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form is on the next page and may be printed and mailed to the home parish of the Godparents.
4. St. John the Baptist cannot accommodate requests for particular celebrants from among the parish clergy as these are assigned based solely on availability. Any member of the parish clergy, or a visiting member of the clergy, may be assigned to celebrate the sacrament without prior notification or consent of those participating.
5. Visiting clergy (those not assigned to St. John the Baptist by the Bishop of Lansing) are welcome, provided they are in good standing with the Catholic Church, to act as guest celebrants with the consent of the pastor of St. John the Baptist and the Bishop of Lansing. Any guest celebrants should be arranged directly with the pastor of St. John the Baptist. A Letter of Suitability will be required if the visiting clergy is outside the Diocese of Lansing.

To begin the process and paperwork for your child's baptism, please contact the parish office at 734-483-3360

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
411 FLORENCE ST., YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197**

GODPARENT / SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM
For non-parishioners

I recognize that a godparent / sponsor has the responsibility to guide a baptized child in the ways of the Catholic Faith, growth in personal holiness, and assist them in living a life consistent with the baptismal covenant.

I, therefore, recognize that to fulfill this role, I am:

- at least 16 years of age (just exceptions may be made by the pastor)
- selected by the parents and intend to fulfill the role
- a Catholic who had received the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation, leading a life in harmony with the Church (including sacramental Matrimony, if applicable)
- not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared
- a registered member of a parish
- a good role model for the one being baptized
- neither the father nor the mother of the child

I testify that I fulfill these requirements to serve as a godparent, and that I will continue to meet these requirements in the future.

Name of Godparent / Sponsor:

Signature of Godparent / Sponsor:

Name of child:

Date of Baptism:

I testify that the above person is registered in my parish and has affirmed in my presence that they fulfill the requirements to serve as a godparent.

_____ Parish Name (Parish Seal Here)

_____ Pastor / Associate Signature

_____ Address

_____ Date

Please mail or deliver this form completed at least 3 weeks prior to the scheduled date of baptism to: St. John the Baptist, 411 Florence St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Attn: Sacramental Records