

St. Patrick Church
Parsons, KS

Baptism Information and Registration

Baptism:

In this beautiful sacrament one is immersed into the mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection. In the waters of Baptism original sin is washed from the soul, as we are reborn in the Lord. To be baptized is to be adopted by God as His very own child, and to receive the promise of eternal life. Baptism is the foundational sacrament by which one becomes a Christian, and is the first step of initiation into the Catholic faith. One becomes a full member of the Church by receiving Baptism, First Holy Communion, and finally Confirmation. To be part of the Church is to be part of Christ's Living Body, sharing in the mission of proclaiming His Gospel to the world.

"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 1213)

Infants:

Infant Baptism requires that the Church have a "well founded hope" that the infant being baptized will be raised in the practice of the Catholic faith. Whereas adults freely choose to accept Christ in the Baptismal waters, infants obviously cannot make such a conscious choice. Since ancient times, however, the Church has recognized the earnest desire of parents to spiritually anchor their infants to Christ. She therefore baptizes infants or very young children, provided that the parents make a solemn commitment to God that they will raise the child in the faith into which they are being baptized. In practical terms this means that the parents promise to:

- Bring the child to Sunday Mass each week starting the Sunday after Baptism.
- Bring the child to Religious Education starting no later than the first grade and continuing through Confirmation.
- Teach the child by word and example at home to love God and neighbor as Jesus taught.

The promise to raise their child in the practice of faith is made aloud by the parents as part of the Baptism Ceremony. The Godparents also promise to assist the parents in this important work.

Information/Requirements for Parents:

- Parents must be registered members of St. Patrick Parish for at least 3 months.
- Please contact the pastor as early as possible to set up a baptism date/time.
- Fill out the attached form and bring it to the parish office at least 3 weeks in advance.
- Bring the child's state-issued birth certificate.

If you are not a member of St. Patrick's parish, you must also bring a letter from your parish pastor granting permission for your child to be baptized at St. Patrick's.

(over)

Godparent Requirements:

These requirements are mandated by the Code of Canon Law, and apply universally to Catholic parishes. They are not meant to restrict, but to help in selecting the most effective and appropriate persons possible for this very specific role in the Church. In good faith we rely on parents to honestly and prayerfully make certain these requirements are met.

- Only one male and one female may serve as Godparents. It is possible to have just one Godparent, but two Godparents (one male and one female) are the norm in the Catholic tradition. No more than two Godparents are allowed, and never two of the same sex. Parents may not serve as Godparents to their own child.
- Godparents must be at least sixteen years of age. This requirement may be waived by the pastor only if the prospective Godparent has already been Confirmed and meets all other qualifications. The role of the Godparent is an important one, and certain level of maturity and faith experience is therefore necessary.
- Godparents must be Catholics who have received all three Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing whose lifestyle is in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic faith. Minimally, this means that they should be attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis and are living a life in harmony with the faith. If married, must be married in the Church. Remember – a Godparent is not just a good or faith filled person. They are asked to serve as a visible role model of Catholic faith and moral teaching.
- Provided at least one Godparent is a qualified Catholic, the other may be a baptized member of a different Christian religion. Such an individual is referred to as a “Christian Witness”. A Christian Witness is a non-Catholic member of another Christian religion. (Catholics who are non-practicing, not Confirmed, or otherwise do not qualify to serve as Godparents may not serve as a Christian Witness). During the Baptism Ceremony, Godparents and Christian Witnesses publicly renew their own Baptismal Promises and commitments to Christ. Therefore, non-Christians (Jews, Muslims, etc.) may not serve as Christian Witnesses. To ask them to do so would not be respecting their own faith choice and traditions.
- If one or both of the Catholic Godparents is not a member of St. Patrick’s Parish, he/she must fill out the attached form, have it signed by his/her pastor, and return the form to St. Patrick’s.

Stipend

On this joyful occasion, it would be most appropriate to make a financial offering to the parish in thanksgiving for the gift of your child’s Baptism.

The following forms are attached:

- (1) Baptism Registration for parents to fill out and return to the parish office.
- (2) Godparent form – Each Catholic godparent, if not a member of this parish, must have his/her parish priest sign and apply the parish seal to the form.

All necessary forms must be in the parish office before the baptism will be performed.

Baptism Registration
St. Patrick Church
Parsons, KS

Full Legal Name of child (first – middle – last) _____

City & State of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____

Gender of child: ___ Boy ___ Girl

Preferred Dates & Times for baptism: Time: _____ Date _____ OR Time: _____ Date _____
1st Choice 2nd Choice

Father's Name: _____ Phone No: _____
First Middle Last

Father's Religion: ___ Catholic ___ Non-Catholic

If Baptized Catholic: Sacraments Received ___ 1st Communion ___ Confirmation

Mother's Name: _____ Phone No: _____
First Middle Maiden

Mother's Religion: ___ Catholic ___ Non-Catholic

If Baptized Catholic: Sacraments received ___ 1st Communion ___ Confirmation

Marital Status of Parents: ___ Married in Catholic Church ___ Married outside the Church
___ Not married

If married – date of marriage: _____

Members of St. Patrick Parish? ___ Yes ___ No

If no, to what parish do you belong? _____
Name and city of Parish

Or, would you like to join this parish? ___ Yes ___ No

Address: _____

Signature of Parent

(over for Godparent Information)

Date signed

GODPARENT INFORMATION

Godfather

If the proposed Godfather is a practicing Catholic, meets all the qualifications outlined above, and is a member of this parish –

Godfather's Name _____

If the proposed Godfather is Catholic but a member of a different parish, fill out and return the form provided.

Godfather's Name _____

If the proposed Godfather is a Christian but not Catholic, he will be listed as a Christian witness.

Christian Witness name _____

If there will be a proxy for the Godfather, name of proxy _____

Godmother

If the Godmother is a practicing Catholic, meets all the qualifications outlined above, and is a member of this parish –

Godmother's Name _____

If the proposed Godmother is Catholic but a member of a different parish, fill out and return the form provided.

Godmother's Name _____

If the proposed Godmother is a Christian but not Catholic, she will be listed as a Christian witness.

Christian Witness name _____

If there will be a proxy for the Godmother, name of proxy _____