

The Sacrament of Baptism

Saint Mary Parish

55 Catoonah St.
Ridgefield, CT



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)

Scheduling a Baptism

Saint Mary Parish offers the Sacrament of Baptism most Saturdays at 12:00PM, with the exception of Holy Days and Holiday Week-ends. Up to 2 babies will be baptized at each celebration. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a baptism for your child.

Pre-Baptismal Preparation

Parents are required to have attended a baptismal preparation class within the 5 years prior to the baptism of the child. St. Mary Parish offers classes on the second Wednesday every other month. The class begins at 7:30PM and runs for approximately 45 minutes. Both parents are asked to attend. Please contact the Parish office if you require other options for classes held within the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The Ceremony

Please be prompt to the baptism, but we kindly ask that you and your guests arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled baptism. Pictures are allowed. Please be aware of appropriate reverence.

Selecting Godparents

The role of a godparent or Christian witness is a role of support in the Catholic faith journey of a person receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a commitment to help the baptized person lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

When selecting a godparent, the following criteria must be met:

- ◆ Only one godparent is required and must be Catholic. The other sponsor, if not Catholic, may be a Christian Witness.
- ◆ Catholic godparents must be validly baptized in the eyes of the Catholic Church and have received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- ◆ A Christian witness must be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Catholic godparents must be in good standing with their Parish of registration and if married, must be validly married in the eyes of the Church.
- ◆ There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.
- ◆ Sponsors may not be the father or mother of the child being baptized.
- ◆ Sponsors must be at least 16 years of age.

Catholic godparents must provide a **Sponsor Certificate** from the Parish in which they are currently active attesting to their standing in the Church. The certificate is due to St. Mary Parish **no later** than one week prior to the baptism and must be the original, embossed with the church seal. Facsimiles are not accepted. When a godparent is unable to attend the baptismal celebration, the parent or guardian may assign a proxy to stand in for the godparent. Please contact the Parish office for more information regarding requirements of a proxy.