

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the upcoming Baptism of your child at Saint Mary Magdalen Parish.

This is undoubtedly a time of great joy for your family, and I want your preparation for your child's baptism to be marked by that spirit of hope, trusting in the love of God revealed to us in the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. The salvation which Christ has won for us is communicated to us in and through the Sacrament of Baptism when we are freed from the darkness of sin and made sharers in the Divine nature. This grace, which comes from the Holy Spirit, is the greatest gift we will ever receive in this world, and so I thank you for making your child's baptism a priority for your family.

While your godparents, relatives, and friends—not to mention other parishioners—have an important role in the Christian formation of your child, the first task belongs to you as parents to raise your children in the practice of the Catholic faith. This involves more than attendance at Catholic school or religious education classes; rather, it means growing as a disciple and communicating through your words and manner of life that God alone is to be worshiped, and that our first love must be for him, by which we can love one another as Christ has loved us. We look forward to helping you however we can in carrying out this awesome and beautiful task.

May the Lord grant you peace!

Rev. Eric J. Banecker

Pastor

Baptismal Preparation Information & Checklist

Below are essential guidelines to help you discern and avoid unnecessary issues as your child's Baptism Day approaches.

Sponsors/Godparents Document & Requirements

First, your sponsor or sponsors must submit their *Letter of Good Standing** to our office **BEFORE** your child's Baptism Date is confirmed.

While having two sponsors at Baptism has become a tradition, one sponsor is adequate. If you have two sponsors, they may not be the same sex.

A Catholic who has not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist may not be a sponsor.

A Catholic who has defected from the Catholic Church may not be a sponsor.

A non-practicing Catholic may be admitted as a sponsor only if the pastor or minister of the sacrament can determine that the person is in the process of returning to the regular practice of the faith. For this reason, a *Letter of Good Standing (Eligibility)* from the sponsor's parish priest must be submitted within one month of the scheduled date of Baptism.

Members of Eastern Catholic or Orthodox Churches are welcome to serve as sponsors. A member of a Protestant denomination may not serve as a sponsor, though they can be designated as a "Christian Witness."

Baptism Date & Time

Baptisms are generally held on Sundays at 12:45 PM at St. Mary Magdalen. When you schedule the date, an administrator can discuss any exceptions. Complete the [Baptismal Intake Form](#) and submit it to us.

Pre-Jordan Class

Parents must attend the Pre-Jordan session before their first child's Baptism, where a parish facilitator takes time to discuss the Baptismal sacrament with each other and your chosen sponsors (Godparents). Godparents are also encouraged to attend, but it is not required. Pre-Jordan is the only requirement for preparing for your first child's Baptism. Parents have the option to participate in Pre-Jordan before their child's birth.

Pre-Jordan Classes are generally held once every three months in the Gathering Room, which is located off the main narthex. Registration is required for planning purposes. For upcoming class dates and times, please see our [events page](#), bulletin news, or contact the facilitator below.

To register for a class, or more information about Pre-Jordan, please contact our facilitator, Stephanie Davey at stephaniepdavey@gmail.com.

Offerings and Fees

A Free-Will offering is most appreciated, while by no means required, couples often give a donation to the parish as a gift in thanksgiving for the birth of their child and for the celebration of Baptism. You are welcome to make an electronic donation [HERE](#). Thank you!

Questions?

Please email: baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net or call 610-566-8821 for more information.

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