

# **ST. MARY MAGDALEN** **CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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## **Baptismal Information**

God bless you for presenting your child for baptism in the Catholic Church. To have your child baptized at St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, you need to do the following:

1. Read the Baptismal Information Guidelines, especially the requirements for your Godparents.
2. Discuss your baptismal plans with your family and those whom you would like to have as Godparents to determine if they meet the guidelines to be a godparent.
3. Complete the Baptismal Questionnaire, return it to the parish office and schedule a meeting to discuss the baptism with Father Bernard Kirlin who is the Pastor of the parish..



At the meeting with Father Kirlin, you will have the opportunity to discuss everything about your child's baptism. Father Kirlin will answer any questions, concerns, or special requests that you might have. It will be possible to schedule the exact date for the baptism and the preparation class. Baptismal preparation class in English is the first Monday on the month at 5:00 PM, and Baptismal preparation class in Spanish is the last Monday on the month at 5:00 PM.

### **DATE AND TIME OF BAPTISMS**

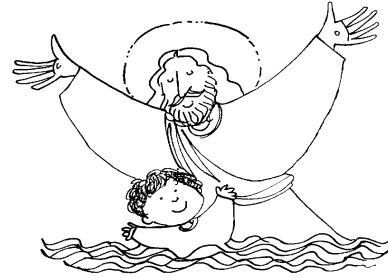
Baptisms should be scheduled at least two months in advance.

Generally, baptisms in English are celebrated at 2:30 PM on Sunday after the 1:00 PM Sunday Mass. (If no baptisms have been scheduled in English on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month, it is usually possible to have baptism celebrated after the 1:00 PM Mass in Spanish or in a bi-lingual Spanish-English ceremony.) Parents along with the child to be baptized, godparents and guests should attend the 1:00 PM Mass.

Usually, baptisms in Spanish are celebrated twice a month (1st and 3rd Sundays) at 2:30 PM after the 1:00 PM Mass. Parents along with the child to be baptized, godparents and guests should attend the 1:00 PM Mass.

Please note that no baptisms are scheduled on some Sundays so it is important to confirm the date with Father Kirlin before inviting guests to attend.

# **PARISH GUIDELINES**



## **CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR BAPTISM**

Children who have, at least, one parent who is a formally registered and practicing member of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church may be baptized in our parish church. (Children whose parents do not live within the parish boundaries must obtain permission from the Catholic Church where they are currently registered.)

## **GODPARENTS AND CHRISTIAN WITNESSES**

Godparents are more than just special friends or relatives of the child to be baptized. Godparents stand as representative of the Catholic community and act as a special witness to the child of what it means to be a good Catholic.

To be a godparent, a person must be:

1. A baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Confirmation and holy Communion and is practicing the Catholic faith.
2. Mature enough to undertake the responsibility.
3. A member of the Catholic Church canonically free to carry out this responsibility. (Catholics currently living in a marriage not considered valid by the Catholic Church or cohabitating are excluded from being a godparent. )
4. Someone other than the father or mother, spouse or fiancé of the one who is to be baptized.

A validly baptized and believing Christian from a separated church may act as a Christian Witness so long as there is also a Catholic Godparent. A non-baptized person may never act as a Godparent or Christian witness.

If a godparent is unable to attend the baptismal ceremony, it is possible to have a “proxy”. A proxy is a stand-in at the ceremony when the designated godparent can not be present. The designated godparent will be noted in the official record of the parish.

Godparents must provide a letter from the Church that they attend stating they are eligible to act as a godparent.

## **SPECIAL BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS**

### **FOR PARENTS AND GODPARENTS**

After the date for baptism has been confirmed by Father Kirlin, parents will schedule to attend a personal family baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents and Christian Witnesses who live in the area. Children are welcome. Baptismal preparation are approximately 45 to 1 hour long and are scheduled at a mutually convenient time for both the family and Fr. Kirlin. Baptismal preparation classes should be schedule no later than one week before baptism. Godparents who do not live in area should attend class at their own parish church.

# **COMMON QUESTIONS**

## **How much does a Baptism cost?**

There is no charge for a baptism. It is customary, however, to give a gift to the Church. Generally, the donations are between \$50 and \$100, with the average being around \$75. The donation is for the upkeep of the church. If you cannot afford a donation, do not be anxious. It is a voluntary contribution.

## **God and the church have not been very important in our lives, but we still want to have our child baptized.**

### **Is that OK?**

Yes. But you must understand that baptism is not a magical event. It will fall to you as parents to continue the process of initiating your child into faith. Baptism is often an event that brings families back into contact with their religious roots.

## **What if my child is not an infant?**

Depending on the age of the child, it will be necessary to give some instruction about baptism so that the child will understand what is happening.

## **If I am an unmarried mother, can I have my baby baptized?**

Yes! It is not necessary to have been married in the Catholic Church. The Church makes no judgment on you or your child. You are both welcome in the eyes of God. We simply want to be assured of your commitment to your child's raised as a Catholic.

## **If my husband and I were only married in a civil ceremony, can I have our baby baptized?**

Yes, as long as you are committed to have your child raised as Catholic. Perhaps, this is a time to consider a Catholic marriage. The priest can give you advice on how to overcome obstacles that have delayed your Catholic marriage.



**If I am divorced or separated from my spouse, can I have my baby baptized?**

Yes! It is necessary, however, to ensure that each parent's rights are respected. When one parent has legal custody, that parent determines the religious affiliation of the child. Where the court has granted joint custody, there must be mutual written agreement that both parents wish to have the child baptized and that the child will be raised Catholic. If the court has not determined legal custody, it is necessary to provide a written agreement that both parents wish to have the child baptized and that the child will be raised as a Catholic.

**If one of the parents is not Catholic, can I have my baby baptized?**

Yes! As long as the non-Catholic parent agrees to have the child baptized and raised as a Catholic. We will make every effort to ensure that the non-Catholic parent will feel welcome at the baptism. If for some personal reason, the non-Catholic parent does not want to participate in the baptismal ceremony, we will respect that parent's wishes.

**What if I have other questions or have a special situation or request?**

When you meet with Father Kirlin, ask him your questions. He will provide you with any additional information that you need to have your child baptized.

**Prayer of Parents at Baptism**

Loving God, you given me this child. On this baptism day, help me to encourage my child's faith. Help me to foster faith, growth and responsibility in my child. Help me to teach, to love, to value, to honor our child. But most of all, Lord, help me always to remember that our child comes from your love. Amen.

# **ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

## **BAPTISMAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

Our child

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Child)

is being presented to be baptized in the Catholic Church

Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Was the Child adopted? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the child baptized in an emergency? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the Child born? (City, State, Country) \_\_\_\_\_

### **ADDRESS OF CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED:**

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ APT. #: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### **At this time, both parents are or, at least, one parent is:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Practicing Catholic who are registered as members of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ Practicing Catholic who attend Mass at St. Mary Magdalen Church but are not formally registered.

\_\_\_\_\_ Has not been active member of the Church but will become active and registered member.

\_\_\_\_\_ Active member at another Catholic Church. \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Church).

### **REQUESTED DATE AND LANGUAGE OF BAPTISM**

I understand that baptisms are usually scheduled at least one month in advance of the baptism. I would like to discuss with the priest the possibility of having my child baptized on:

**REQUESTED DATE OF BAPTISM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUESTED LANGUAGE OF BAPTISM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRTH PARENTS**

***It is our intention to raise our child in the practice of the Catholic Faith.***

**NAME OF BIRTH FATHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

IN WHAT CITY WAS THE FATHER BORN: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION OF FATHER: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF MOTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MAIDEN NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

IN WHAT CITY WAS THE MOTHER BORN: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION OF MOTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will both parents be able to attend the Baptism and the Baptismal Preparation Class? \_\_\_\_\_

**At this time, the parents of the child are:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ married in the Catholic Church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ married in a civil ceremony or non-Catholic ceremony only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ living together but not married.
- \_\_\_\_\_ married but now separated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ divorced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ not living together and have never been married.

## **GODPARENTS**

**I HAVE REVIEWED THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR GODPARENTS AND HAVE SELECTED THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THESE QUALIFICATIONS:**

**GODFATHER:** FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH CURRENTLY ATTENDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF CHURCH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has the Godfather requested a letter from his parish priest stating that the Godfather meets the requirements to be a Godfather?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will the Godfather attend the baptism?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, who will represent the Godfather?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will the Godfather attend the baptismal preparation class at St. Mary Magdalen?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, where will the Godfather attend the baptismal preparation class?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GODMOTHER:** FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH CURRENTLY ATTENDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF CHURCH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has the Godmother requested a letter from her parish priest stating that the Godmother meets the requirements to be a Godmother?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will the Godmother attend the baptism?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, who will represent the Godmother?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will the Godmother attend the baptismal preparation class at St. Mary Magdalen?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, where will the Godmother attend the baptismal preparation class?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CHRISTIAN WITNESS:** In place of one of the Catholic godparents, it is possible to substitute a baptized and practicing Christian who is not Catholic.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Religion:** \_\_\_\_\_