

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION AND BAPTISMS DURING STATE “PHASE 5”**

*St. Gall Catholic Church, Elburn, IL.*

Updated June 29, 2021

### **Baptismal preparation classes**

While families are unable to come to the church for the usual baptismal preparation classes, they may instead do their preparation on-line through the “Formed” website.

A. Go to: [stgall.formed.org](http://stgall.formed.org)

B. Go to the “Programs” tab at the top of the main page, and drop down to “Sacraments.” Click on “Reborn,” and watch at least session #1 (A New Creation), and session #3 (Nurturing Life of Grace). The session regarding Godparents is also highly recommended.

### **Setting a date and time for your child’s Baptism**

After you have watched both sessions of “Reborn,” call Lisa at the parish office to set a baptism date and time (630-365-6030). Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 12:00 Noon.

### **On your child’s Baptism Day**

A. When you arrive for the Baptism, please wait in the narthex. Father will greet you there and escort you to your seats.

B. After the Baptism has concluded, you will have a few minutes in the church to take photographs. You may use the steps in front of the altar, but please do not go on the top level.

C. Please conclude your photographs in a timely manner, so we have time to sanitize the pews for the next parish function.

D. As you leave, please do not linger too long in the narthex, but instead either exit the church or return directly to your car.

***Thank you for your help, and congratulations on your child’s baptism!***

***May God bless you and your loved ones always!***

## **How to Choose Godparents for Baptism**

Rev. Max Striedl, priest of the Diocese of Rockford

We are so thrilled that you are presenting your child for the sacrament of baptism! Here is some important information about choosing a godparent to help you raise your child within the Catholic Christian Faith.

### ***What is the role of the sponsor (aka the "godfather" and "godmother") in baptism?***

The sponsor (aka "godfather" and/or "godmother"), with the parents, present the child for baptism. The godfather or godmother agrees to help the child grow up to be a good Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ within the Church that he founded--the Holy Catholic Church.

They do this through a number of ways. First, they pray for the child. They also present a good example of someone who practices their faith through regular worship of God at Mass, through the regular reception of the sacraments, and through striving to live a good moral life.

Nobody is perfect. We are all sinners. Yet, a godfather or godmother should be someone who strives to grow in holiness with the help of God's grace. They should be someone who lives the kind of life that will help the child to live out the grace of their baptism and to form their identity as a Catholic Christian.

### ***How many sponsors must I have?***

You only need to have one sponsor. However, a child can have up to one male (godfather) and one female (godmother) serve as sponsors.

### ***Can I choose someone who is not Catholic?***

Because baptism does bring a child into the Catholic Church the godparent chosen does need to be Catholic. A baptized non-Catholic Christian can serve as a "Christian witness" and would be recorded as such in the official baptismal registry. You would still need to choose at least one Catholic to serve as one of the godparents.

### ***In addition to being Catholic, what are the other requirements that a godparent must meet?***

The Catholic Church's universal *Code of Canon Law* establishes certain requirements for a godparent. They must be a baptized Catholic, at least 16 years old, have already themselves received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. In addition, they must lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken. They should be practicing Catholics. If they are married, their marriage needs to have taken place within the Catholic Church. They should not have anything that prevents them from being able to receive sacraments within the Catholic Church. In order to ensure conformity with universal Church law please ask your prospective godparents (both, if you have two) to have the St. Gall Sponsor Eligibility Certificate signed by themselves and by their pastors.

***What if I have already asked someone to be a godparent and they do not meet the requirements?***

In many cases, parents ask friends or family to serve as godparents before they truly realize the meaning of this role. While it is understandable to want to honor a relationship with someone that you love, and while such persons can have many virtues that would make them a great mentor to a child, the role of the sponsor for baptism has a very specific purpose: *to help the child to live out the grace of their baptism as a disciple of Jesus within the Catholic Church.* If you have already asked someone to serve as a godparent and they do not meet the requirements of a sponsor, consider asking 1 or 2 other individuals to serve as the official sponsors. You can still tell your other friends and family that they have an important role in serving as a mentor in the life of your child.

***What if I do not know anyone who can I choose to serve as a godparent?***

Begin to call to mind the people that you know who actively practice their Catholic faith and receive the sacraments. You might want to consider your child's grandparents, aunts, uncles, close friends of these relatives, friends, etc. If you are not currently attending Mass, please start coming! Perhaps there is someone that you know at the local parish who can be a support to help you attend Mass and get more involved in the parish community.

If you still cannot think of anyone who can meet the requirements of a baptismal sponsor ask the parish priest to help you identify a potential sponsor.

***What is MY responsibility as a parent when I present my child for baptism?***

When you bring your child to be baptized you are making a commitment to raise them within the Catholic Church. This is an awesome responsibility. Your child is a gift from God. Your child belongs to God and is only yours "on loan." It is the role of Christian parents to do all that they can, with the help of God's grace, to teach their baptized children the way of prayer, the life of Christian virtues, the life of a disciple of Jesus. In baptism, a child is made holy, consecrated to God. It is the role of the parents to help their child answer this call to holiness and live out the grace of baptism.

This responsibility involves, among other things, attending Mass on Sunday and holy days. If you are not currently very consistent in the practice of your faith, please know that the Lord loves you and invites you to turn back to him today. Start to come back to the regular attendance at Mass. Get involved in the life of the parish. God loves us where we are and wants to meet us where we are, but He wants to also take us deeper in our relationship with Him and with His Church!



43W 885 Hughes Rd ~ Elburn, IL 60119 ~ 630-365-6030

**BAPTISM GODPARENT ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE**

**Please return this form to St. Gall Church at least two weeks prior to the Baptism.**

Godparents for the sacrament of Baptism must be a Catholic who:

- Is 16 years old (though the pastor can grant an exemption for a just cause).
- Has already received the sacrament of Confirmation
- Has already received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- Leads a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith and the role to be undertaken

Aware of these requirements, I **HEREBY AFFIRM**, my **FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ and my fidelity to the Catholic Church.**

I **HEREBY AFFIRM**, that I practice my faith by **REGULARLY JOINING IN THE SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF MASS AND THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION.**

I **HEREBY AFFIRM**, that I am a **REGISTERED MEMBER of:**

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Parish) (City, State)

and fulfill my obligation to my parish to the best of my ability.

**IF I LIVE WITH SOMEONE I DO SO WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MARRIAGE and MY MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

**IF I HAVE CHILDREN**, my children are being educated in the Catholic faith.

I **AFFIRM**, that I have received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

**I DO THEREFORE SOLEMNLY AFFIRM THAT I MEET ALL THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS TO ACT AS A SPONSOR for \_\_\_\_\_, SO HELP ME GOD.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Godparent's Signature) (Godparent's name – please print)

**To be filled out by the Church the Sponsor is currently registered with**

To the best of my ability, I can confirm that the testimony given above is true.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor's Signature) (Pastor's name- please print) CHURCH SEAL