

ST. MARY'S PARISH

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BAPTISM INFORMATION KIT

As a Catholic parish community we are happy for you at the birth of your child and your desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with you, your child, and your family.

PROCEDURE

You are kindly asked to read carefully the information in this package and fill out the *Baptism Registration Form*. Our parish secretary, Jayne Williams, will call you to review the information on your Registration Form, set up a date for the baptism of your child, and give you information about the necessary online Baptism Classes you and your child's godparents are asked to watch well in advance of the baptism.

(PLEASE SEE PAGE ABOUT USING THE FORMED VIDEO PLATFORM.)

GODPARENTS

You are asked to pay particular attention to the attached sheet '*About Godparents*' as the Church is very clear on who can and who cannot stand as a Godparent, that there cannot be two men or two women serving as Godparents, and that the Godparent(s) (a man and a woman) must be a practicing Catholic and ready and willing to profess the Catholic faith at the Baptism.

DATE OF BAPTISM AND YOUR SUGGESTED DONATION

Baptisms are usually held once per month throughout all of the months of the year, with the exception of the season of Lent. The suggested donation for baptism is \$50.00.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE PARISH – REGISTRATION

If you are new to St. Mary's Parish, live within the parish boundaries, or have come here by choice (but not just for baptism), you are most welcome and we urge you to consider Registering in the parish. Registration is your way of stating your intention to belong to this parish and make it your sacramental home and the place where you worship each Sunday. You are also encouraged to contribute to the considerable financial needs of your parish by taking and using either parish offertory envelopes or through the automatic debiting of your personal bank account (PAG) which is the way many people pay their bills these days. Information about these may be obtained following Sunday Masses at the back of the church.

FULL PARTICIPATION IN SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH LIFE

It is so very important in your and your child's relationship with Jesus Christ that you raise the children you have baptized in the lived practice of the Catholic faith, which means not only participation in the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, but also attendance at the Sunday worship of God at the various Masses celebrated here each weekend.

THE GOD OF JESUS CHRIST AND YOU

God is loving, kind, merciful and forgiving. He loves us where we are at and just as we are yet His love doesn't want to leave us there – He desires we live in right relationship with Him; that we worship Him at the celebration of Mass each Sunday and that we grow in our knowledge of Him and His holy Catholic Church. God is love yet there are things He demands of us as He calls His people to follow Him in imitation of His life, in following His commandments, His holiness, His teaching and His love for all. We invite you to make this opportunity of the baptism of your child a renewal of your own Catholic faith that will, therefore, be passed on to your children, and your children's children one day.

If you would like to speak to the parish priest, Fr. Charles Forget, about baptism or for any other reason, please call the parish office for an appointment either by phone or in person, if possible – 705-445-1790 ext. 101.

ABOUT GODPARENTS

The role of the godparent(s) is an often confused and misunderstood one.

A Godparent is one who assists the parents in the “spiritual” upbringing of their child. The godparent should have considerable life-contact with the child to be baptized and to be actively interested in praying for and being a personal spiritual support for the child. Unfortunately, in the choosing of a godparent, sometimes a person is chosen for purely honorary reasons. It is seen as honouring the person who is asked by the parents to serve as a godparent. However, when taken seriously, this role is one that should and must reach the child far beyond the actual day of baptism. It is a role of responsibility before God, the child and the parents themselves.

It is a serious and important task that is placed before you as parents to carefully choose suitable candidates who will take seriously their role as described above. The Church teaches that “godparents are to be present (at baptism) in order to represent both the expanded spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as Mother. As occasion offers, godparents help the parents so that the children will come to profess the faith and live up to it. In the actual celebration of baptism, the part of the godparents is to testify to the faith, and together with the parents, to profess the Church’s faith in which children are to be baptized.”

In choosing godparents, please consider the following:

1. The godparent you choose must be 16 years of age or older and be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (having received the three sacraments of initiation - Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation).
2. The person must be mature enough to carry out the responsibilities and be an active Catholic who embraces in word and deed gospel values.
3. The person must be willing to profess the Catholic Faith with the parents immediately prior to the pouring of water and should have no reservations about doing so.
4. The person must be willing to cooperate with the parents in helping to foster and nurture in the child a Catholic way of life.
5. The Church states that the child must have at least one Catholic godparent ***and no more than two. If there are two, then one man and one woman are to be chosen.*** Two men or two women are not permissible as Godparents even if they are not related to one another.
6. For obvious reasons, ***a Christian from another tradition*** (United Church, Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, etc.) ***may not be a godparent but may act as a Christian Witness***, provided there is also a Catholic godparent. If there are two Catholic godparents, a Christian Witness is not permitted or necessary.
7. More than two Godparents are not necessary for any reason and the parish can only allow two Godparents to appear in the parish register of baptism and on the baptismal certificate.

ONLINE BAPTISMAL CLASSES USING “FORMED” MULTIMEDIA PLATFORM

Since the pandemic made it impossible to gather in churches for baptismal preparation classes for parents and godparents, we have turned to an online method called FORMED where each of the classes can be viewed from the comfort of your own home or almost anyplace. The cost of FORMED is covered by the parish so it's free for your use. You need only follow the easy steps below to subscribe and there are no passwords to remember.

Go to [Formed.org](https://formed.org)

Click on 'Sign Up'

Select 'Sign Up as a Parishioner'

In *Create A New Account*, look up the following parish – [St. Mary's Parish](#)

Select '[63 Elgin Street, Collingwood, On](#)

Next, enter your name and your email address and hit Enter.

You will be sent an email link which you simply click on and the Formed online platform will be entered.

For the Baptismal Classes go to click on the header **PROGRAMS**. Go to **SACRAMENTS**

Choose the program, [REBORN: YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE HEART OF BAPTISM](#).

There are three (3) videos you are asked to watch (1.5 hours in total) which will give you a greater sense of not only the importance of baptism but how it is essential in the life of your child.

Episode 1 **A New Creation** (39:38)

Episode 2 **Entering the Mystery** (24:36)

Episode 3 **Nurturing the Life of Grace** (25:30)

These three videos are well put together, artistic and beautifully written. You may watch them all together in one sitting or over three days to give yourself a chance to absorb the perspective of baptism in the Church.

Godparents are also asked to watch these three videos and the Episode – [Godparents: More Than Cards & Presents](#)

We entrust you to this at-home preparation through the videos prescribed to better help you to understand that baptism is not simply a one-day event but an essential event with eternal promises. Please make sure you pace yourself in watching the videos so that you have viewed them prior to baptism.

God bless you, your chosen godparents and your child who will become a new creation in Baptism.

Blessings.

Fr. Charles Forget, Pastor