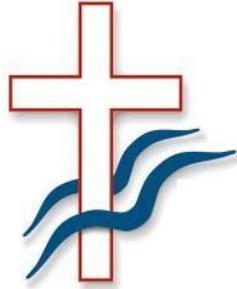


There is one Love, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. *Ephesians 4:5-6*



## Steps to Baptism at St. Jude Catholic Church:

- **First Step:**

Pre-register for a Baptism seminar. Both Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptism Seminar. Baptism Seminars are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each Month at 6:30 PM. **Pre-registration is required.** (If you are a parishioner and cannot attend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, we will work with you to schedule a Seminar at a more convenient time. Call with concerns)

- **Second Step:**

Fill out the Parent Survey Form that was included in your Baptism Packet

- This form needs to be returned back to the office as soon as possible so we can schedule the Baptism. (The Baptism cannot be scheduled unless the Parent Survey Form has been returned to the office.) The Parent's and Godparent's Baptism Certificates can be turned in at a later date.

- **Third Step:**

Both Parents and Godparents need to get a new (dated within the last 6 months) Baptismal Certificate with **notations** (Sacraments.) This is required for records purposes and needs to be turned in to Peggy Moran at least 2 weeks prior to the Baptism. An older Baptismal Certificate cannot be used.

**How to obtain a copy of a Baptismal Certificate:**

1. Call the church where you were baptized
  2. Tell them that you need a copy of your baptism certificate
  3. Request that they include **notations** (Sacraments)
- Anyone (Parents or Godparents) who has attended a Baptism Seminar within the past 5 years will not be required to attend another Seminar.

## Information about Godparents:

- The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) requires that Godparents be at least 16 years of age or older, Baptized, Confirmed and able to receive the sacraments. (In Good Standing with the Catholic Church)
- If your chosen Godparents are not members of St. Jude they can attend a Baptism Seminar at their local parish. A letter or certificate from their local parish will need to be given to Peggy Moran at St. Jude at least 2 weeks prior to the Baptism.
- If neither parent is a registered parishioner at St. Jude then you must also obtain a letter from your current pastor giving permission for the child to be baptized at St. Jude.

### What is the role of a Godparent?

- The godparents, as representative of the Christian community, present the child at baptism and help the parents to lead the child to a Christian way of life. This includes helping the child to faithfully fulfill the obligations connected with our Catholic faith.

### Who can be Godparents?

- Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each gender can be godparents. Godparents must be at least 16, have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and not be the child's parents (grandparents are discouraged as godparents because of their already important role) must be a catholic in good standing.

### What is a Christian Witness?

- Non-Catholics of other Christian denominations who are actively practicing their faith may serve as a Christian witness providing at least one of the godparents is Catholic.
- Canon Law describes a witness as "A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community."
- If you are using a Christian Witness (non-Catholic) we will need a copy of their Baptismal Certificate and they will be required to attend a Baptism Seminar. A photocopy will be acceptable

## The importance of a Baptismal Certificate:

- A Baptismal certificate is routinely issued after the baptism. **(Please keep this certificate in a safe place for future use.)**

### What information is entered on the Baptismal Certificate?

- The child's name is entered into the parish baptismal register, which is the primary document of baptism. It is in this parish register (known as the "baptizing parish" record) that notations will be made of events in the future which change the child's status in the Church (like confirmation, 1st communion, marriage information etc.,).
- The name of the child, parents and godparents are taken directly from the *Parent Survey for Baptism* that you fill out, so **be careful that the names are spelled accurately when completing the form.** The names and birth date information on the Baptism Registration Form must be the same as the information on the child's birth certificate.

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact Peggy Moran at 318-746-2508**