

Baptism FAQ's:

- What are the available dates / times for the ceremony?
 - After and during weekend Masses; there may be other possibilities with the permission of the pastor.
- How long is the ceremony on its own vs during Mass
 - Typically it takes about 30 minutes outside of the Mass, during Mass it takes about 5-10 minutes
- Is there an age limit to being baptized?
 - There isn't an age limit; however, anyone over the age of 7 needs to go through RCIA or RCIC to be baptized.
- Is there a fee associated with having the ceremony?
 - There is no fee for the baptism; the family may choose to give a donation to the church or priest if they would like to
- Is there a limit to the number of people for the Baptism?
 - No
- How much earlier prior to the ceremony does the family need to be at the Church?
 - 15 minutes ahead or if it takes place after Mass then right after Mass concludes
- Do I need to bring any paperwork with me to the ceremony (example birth certificate)
 - No?
- Can I have someone who is not Catholic be a god-parent?
 - If there are two godparents (one godmother and one godfather, one of them needs to be a fully initiated catholic. If there is only one godparent then they have to be fully initiated.
- Do we need to select god-parents?
 - Yes the parents need to pick at least one fully initiated catholic to be a godparent
- Can god-parents be family members?
 - Yes, if they are over the age of 16, but they cannot be the child's parents.
- Do the god-parents need to be confirmed or have communion complete?
 - At least one needs to be a fully initiated catholic
- The Deacon or Priest are donating their time, is it permitted to give them a gift of cash for their time?
 - Yes
- Can the Deacon or Priest bless baptism items such as a cross after the ceremony?
 - Yes
- Can pictures or video be taken during the ceremony of the baptism?
 - Yes
- Is there space for a baptism party at the Church that could be rented
 - There are insurance requirements for this; they need to contact Curtis.hill@dor.org for inquiries
 - If they want to use the hall for a reception they need to reach out to Amy.corron@dor.org for scheduling

- When will the baptismal certificate be shared/mailed after the ceremony?
 - We do not automatically send them out, but the information is recorded in the Sacramental Books at the parish. However, if the family requests one then we will send it to them.
- What are the next steps in the Catholic faith to complete the journey?
 - The faith journey never ends, however the next Sacraments to be received would be First Penance and First Eucharist, which both typically take place around 2nd grade.
 - Confirmation is a 2-year process that begins typically in 8th grade.
 - We have St. Mary's School which goes from Pre-K to 8th grade. For more information on St. Mary's School and for information on financial assistance please visit <https://www.stmaryscanandaigua.org>
- We are blessed that you have chosen St. Benedict Parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for your child. Baptism is the beginning of a life-long faith journey. We look forward to accompanying your family on this faith journey follow this link for our scheduled Mass times:
<https://stbenedictonline.org/liturgy-at-st-benedict-parish>
- Are you a younger family looking for a supportive faith focused group, please visit <https://stbenedictonline.org/young-adult-ministry> to check out our young adult ministry.
- What if one or both Godparents are unable to be physically present for the baptism?
 - Parents can choose a proxy to stand in for a godparent who cannot be present at the Baptism
- Do I need to purchase or provide anything special for the sacrament, such as the candle?
 - The family purchases a white garment that the child will wear at the baptism, the church provides the family with a baptismal candle that can be kept as a keepsake, burned on the anniversary of the child's baptism or on their birthdays as a remembrance of their birth into the divine life.
- During which part of The Mass does the baptism occur?
 - If the baptism takes place during the Mass it occurs after the homily.
- Why does the Church recommend all be baptized?
 - Because Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you." MT 28;19-20
- What actually is baptism?
 - Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation.
- What are the fruits of being baptized?
 - Baptismal grace is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into new life by which we become adoptive sons and daughters of God the Father, a member of Christ the Son and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this fact, the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ.
- Can you tell if someone has been baptized?

- Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, “the character” which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. Because of this “character”, Baptism cannot be repeated. It will be recorded in the Church’s records. Only the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders leave an indelible mark on the soul, in addition to Baptism.
- Who can baptize?
 - In danger of death, any person can baptize provided that they have the intention of doing that which the Church does and provided that they pour water on the candidates head while saying, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
- What can I do practically to help my child understand the importance of being baptized?
 - Human beings are both body and soul, matter and spirit. The body will eventually die but the soul lives for eternity. Just as you celebrate the day your child was physically born on earth, you can also celebrate the day your child was baptized and the soul was born into the family of God. You can light the Baptismal candle each year on the anniversary of the baptism to highlight the significance of this day. This child is a light to the whole world!
- What can godparents practically do?
 - First and foremost pray for their godchild! Godparents can remember the child each year on the anniversary of the baptism by writing a card and letting the child know they are praying for them to grow in faith, hope and love of God. They can take the godchild to Mass and Confession if the parents are not able to do so. They are to be a good example and encourage their godchild on their faith journey and in reception of the other sacraments.
- If I am on the fence about baptizing my child, any words of advice?
 - We are the first teachers for our children. If we choose to not have our children baptized and wait for them to choose it themselves, then we are teaching them that faith and God are not important, if it isn’t important to us, it won’t be important to them.