



THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life! Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God, become members of Christ's Body, and incorporated into the Church, sharing in responsibility to accomplish Her mission.

Baptism has been an essential part of Christian initiation since the earliest days of the Church in the time of the apostles. Even before Baptism in Christ, God demonstrated His desire to save His people through cleansing waters on several occasions throughout the Old Testament. That pattern of saving work came to fulfillment when Christ Himself submitted Himself to baptism by John the Baptist and promised to Baptize in the Holy Spirit in Pentecost.

Baptism is the first Sacrament and a door to all other sacraments. Baptism is not just a nice ritual to make us feel good or prove our faith. Sacraments are physical efficacious signs of God's invisible grace. The rituals and prayers of each sacrament represent the Spiritual realities of God's good work in us. When a person is baptized they are TRULY changed!

Interested in learning more about the Sacrament of Baptism?

Watch "Reborn: You, Your Child, and the Heart of Baptism" on [FORMED.org/REBORN](https://www.formed.org/REBORN)

This Simple series will walk through the details and realities of baptism, and can be a great resource for any adult.

Watch for free with access from Saint Rose:

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SAINT ROSE OF LIMA FAITH FORMATION TEAM IS HERE TO HELP.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT!

CONTACT US

Saint Rose of Lima is here to help!
Rob Masloski
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis
rmasloski@saintroseoflima.net
651-357-1212

**WHAT IS A GODPARENT?
PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

WHAT IS A GODPARENT?

A Godparent is "the sponsor of one who is baptized, who assumes a responsibility to assist the newly-baptized -child or adult- on the road of Christian life." -Catechism of the Catholic Church

That's right, being a godparent comes with some responsibility, namely to assist the newly baptized in living their faith. When a child is baptized, this responsibility is shared between parents and godparents, working together.

Think of it as being asked to be a Catholic coach or mentor for a child. There will be times when your words of encouragement, answers to questions, and most often your lived witness of life with Christ will be instrumental for that child's faith journey.

That's why the Church asks that each Godparent fulfills three criteria:

1. Must be at least 16 years of age
2. Must be fully initiated into the Catholic faith (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation themselves).
3. Must be an active and practicing Catholic living their faith according to the responsibility of being a sponsor.

These Criteria are not intended to **exclude** anyone, but rather to ensure that the individuals chosen to take on this responsibility are equipped to fulfill what is asked of them.



THE CHURCH'S VISION FOR FAITH FORMATION

The Church has always recognized the importance of parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith. Each child is born into a family within which he/she may grow in relationship with Christ in the same way each child grows in relationship with parents and siblings. **This is why the Christian family is often called the "Domestic Church."**

However, no parent is expected to raise their child entirely on their own, that is part of the reason why God calls us together to worship and live in the community of a parish church! Certainly parish faith formation programs and even Catholic schools are resources available to assist parents in the responsibility of raising thriving Catholic children, but parents of young children and even adults being baptized are asked to choose Godparents to be a partner in accomplishing that mission of forming mature and authentic disciples of Jesus Christ!

HOW CAN YOU BE AN EFFECTIVE GODPARENT?

Honestly, the day of the baptism is probably the easiest day to be a godparent, you show up in a suit, or a nice dress perhaps, you do what the priest instructs you to do, you take a couple nice photos, and join in on the celebration afterward.

Then, it sometimes becomes more difficult. How does a Godparent fulfill their responsibilities as a sponsor and lead a child on the road of Christian life? Well here are a few ideas to begin with:

1. Pray for your godchild. Everyday.
Make it a habit, regularly check in to know the ways in which they may be in need of prayer.
2. Set an intentional example of lived Catholic faith. Go to Mass together when possible, pray together, even in simple ways, like meal prayer.
3. Be vulnerable and share about your own experiences of God in your life.
Assist them to do the same by asking how God is moving in their life, or ways in which they have experienced God's love recently.
Start when they are young and this becomes easier as they get older.
4. Celebrate their baptism, send them a card, go out to lunch together, whatever you can do to acknowledge its importance and remind them that they are a beloved son or daughter of God.