



Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church

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Rev. Samuel Spiering, Pastor

Baptisms at St. Leo's

February 22, 2020

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

Dear parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your child! We at St. Leo's are excited for you and are glad that you are interested in having your child baptized at our parish.

Baptism is the greatest gift you can give your child. Baptism will free them from original sin, make them into a child of Almighty God, and bring them into the Body of Christ, the Church. Of course, it brings with it a lot of responsibility on your part. You promise to bring them to Mass, to teach them the faith, and to help them live it out in their lives. But do not worry—you have an entire Church to help you out!

Here is a basic outline of our practices at St. Leo's regarding baptism.

1. Please contact me to arrange a meeting, either in person or over the phone. Normally we can schedule the baptism during that first meeting.
2. If you do not live in St. Leo's parish, you will have to get permission from your own pastor to have the baptism done here. I can help you with that.
3. If you do not do baptism preparation in another parish, then you will have to do it here. It consists of watching the *Reborn* series, which is a three-hour course that you can do at home.
4. Fill out and return the *Baptismal Registration Form* which is available on our website.

On the next page are some frequently asked question; please review them.

Once again, congratulations, and I look forward to working you on this great adventure of Christian parenthood!

Sincerely in Christ,

Frequently asked questions about baptisms at St. Leo's

1. *When should I have my child baptized?* As soon as reasonably possible! The Church requires that we have our children baptized very soon after birth, as it is most important for their salvation. This means typically it should be done within the first couple weeks after birth.
2. *Who can be godparents?* The Church requires that we have at least one Catholic godparent, although two is preferable. The godparent should be someone who practices their faith (goes to Mass regularly, is trying to live out their faith, is not married against the laws of the Church, etc.). In addition to the one godparent, you can have another baptized non-Catholic Christian to serve as a "witness." They should also be living upright lives. Unbaptized person may not serve as godparents or Christian witnesses.
 - a. Also, if you have two godparents then they must be of the opposite sexes. That is to say, one godmother and one godfather, not two godmothers or two godfathers.
3. *Can another priest or deacon do the baptism?* The baptism is a special prerogative of the pastor; however, I am usually open to allowing other priests or deacons to perform the baptism. Just ask!
4. *Is the baptism done during Mass or outside of Mass?* This depends. Most baptisms at St. Leo's are done outside of Mass, typically on Saturday or Sunday. If you want it done during Mass you will have to speak with me about it.
5. *What is the fee for a baptism?* We do not charge a fee; however, a donation to the parish is suggested. The typical donation for a baptism is \$40.00, and checks can be made out to "St. Leo's Parish."
6. *Will you dip my baby into the water for baptism or simply pour water over him?* I typically do baptism by pouring the water over the child. Exceptions can be made to this practice.
7. *What questions will you ask during the ceremony?* There are several questions that the priest will ask the parents during the ceremony, but the answers are pretty easy: "What name do you give your child?" "John Thomas Smith." "What do you ask of the Church for John Thomas Smith?" "Baptism." Most of the rest of the question you answer with "yes" or "I do." Right before the actual pouring of water the priest asks "Is it your intention to have your child baptized?" "It is."