

SAINT WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Saint William Catholic Church I welcome you to this great celebration of our faith namely, the Sacrament of Baptism. You come and ask the Church, the community of believers, to have your child baptized in the Catholic faith. It is in this moment that your child becomes a child of God.

You bring your child to present him or her to God, asking God for the gift of salvation and eternal life.

This act of entrusting your child to God is at the same time a statement of your own faith in the Lord. As you profess and renew your faith in God, you acknowledge your responsibility as parents to be the best example of faith for your child.

It is with this conviction and hope that the Church baptizes your child in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

May the new life that God gives your child and at the same time entrusts him or her to your parental care, bring fruit of good Christian living that is filled with joy, peace and love that only Christ can give us.

We look forward to celebrating with you soon the baptism of your child and to give thanks to God for the gift of life, physical and spiritual, that God entrusted in your hands.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Andrew Knop, omi

Pastor

ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To help you prepare for the baptism of your child/children, you are asked to complete:

- ✓ Baptism Registration Form
- ✓ Baptism Sponsor Eligibility Form

After **all the forms** are completed please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment with a priest or deacon to review the baptismal forms.

The dates for the baptism instructions and baptism will be scheduled **only** after all completed forms and required documents are returned and reviewed by a priest or deacon.

To be admitted to the role of **Sponsor**, a person must:

- ✓ Be a **Catholic** who has received the sacraments of **Baptism, Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**
- ✓ Have completed their **16th year of age**
- ✓ Lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith
- ✓ Be designated by the parents of the child
- ✓ Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized

It is permissible to have **only one Sponsor** (a Catholic) for the baptism. If two Sponsors are chosen, one of each sex must be employed.

A Christian Witness - a Christian who was baptized in a non-Catholic Church may be admitted as a witness to baptism together with a Catholic Sponsor.

Civil Record of Birth: Parents who are **not married** are required to present a copy of the Civil Record of Birth to establish parental responsibility which will be retained by the rectory.

The suggested baptismal offering to the Saint William's Church is **\$50.00**.

If a **private Baptism** is requested, the date, time and celebrant will be determined by the pastor.

If you have any further questions, please call the Parish Office: **Monday thru Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm**

THE BAPTISM DATE WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL ALL THE REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE AND REVIEWED BY A PRIEST OR DEACON



Guidelines for Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Boston

Based on Synod Guidelines for the Archdiocese of Boston
and the Code of Canon Law

Baptism is a moment of great joy for Christian families and for the Church, since the Sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of our sacramental life as Catholics. The following clarification concerning Sponsors at Baptism comes in response to a question that came up during the most recent meeting of the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on Thursday, September 26, 2013:

Can a non-confirmed Catholic serve as a "Christian witness" if the other sponsor for baptism is a confirmed Catholic?

A godparent or sponsor is required by Canon Law to be a fully initiated Catholic in good standing, that is, they must have received all three sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church. When Catholics do not meet the qualifications (see below) to serve as a godparent or sponsor, they are not permitted by law to serve as a "Christian witness" and to have their names recorded in the baptismal registry. "Christian witness" is a term mentioned in Canon 874, and is described as, "A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community." The term "Christian witness" is intended only to apply to baptized non-Catholics. A Catholic who does not meet the requirements to be a godparent cannot serve as a Christian witness.

The role and qualifications for baptismal sponsors and godparents are defined in canons 872 874 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and include that the sponsor or godparent be:

- a confirmed Catholic, who is living a life befitting the role of sponsor,
- and who is not under a canonical penalty,
- and who is not a parent of the person being baptized,
- and who is, ordinarily, sixteen years of age or older. These qualifications are to be explained to the catechumens, or to the parents of those to be baptized as infants, early in the formation for this sacrament, so that they can choose suitable sponsors or godparents.

It is also worth noting that only one sponsor is required for Baptism, who, of necessity, must fulfill all of the canonical requirements for this role. Also, there can be no more than two sponsors, one of each sex. One of these sponsors may be replaced by a "Christian witness", that is, a baptized non-Catholic Christian. As noted above, a "Christian witness" would not include Catholics who have not received the sacrament of Confirmation.