



## Baptism: Frequently Asked Questions

- **Must we be members of St. James Church?**
  - ❖ Yes, families must be registered parishioners of St. James Church and practicing your faith on a regular basis.
  - ❖ Or, registered parishioners of another Catholic church, and practicing your faith on a regular basis. A letter granting permission for the Baptism of your child to take place at St. James Church will be required from your church.
- **Are there any concerns if we are not married?**
  - ❖ No, however both parents must give their approval for the Baptism.
  - ❖ The only exception is if one parent has sole custody and the other parent has no involvement in the child's life.
- **When can a child be baptized?**
  - ❖ Baptism can take place during all of the church seasons except Lent.
  - ❖ Baptism normally takes place during a mass:
    - 4:00 pm on Saturday
    - 8:15 and 11:15 on Sunday morning
- **Must both godparents be Catholic?**
  - ❖ At least one godparent must be Catholic.
  - ❖ There must be one godmother and one godfather.
  - ❖ If the Catholic godparent is not registered at St. James, then they must obtain a *Sponsor Certificate* (not a Baptism Certificate) from his/her parish. This is a standard form they can get by calling their parish rectory.
  - ❖ I must have the sponsor certificate(s) *before* the Baptism date.
  - ❖ It can be mailed to my home address:

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- **How do we schedule a Baptism date?**
  - ❖ Call me at my home phone (315) 492-1164 – evenings are best!
  - ❖ If this is your first child, a Baptism meeting will need to be held with you. We can schedule this when you call me. It is a one hour session.
  - ❖ I will also take down your requested Baptism date and mass preference and check with the priest's schedule. It is best to have two dates in mind to allow for flexibility.
  - ❖ After I confirm the Baptism date, I will contact you to finalize the Baptism.
- **Are pictures/video taping allowed during the Baptism ceremony?**
  - ❖ Flash photography should be kept to a minimum, a few pictures are allowed during the Baptism, feel free to stay afterwards and take all the pictures you want!
  - ❖ Video taping is allowed as long as it is not overwhelming or distracting (no bright lights).
  - ❖ Please designate one person to video tape or take pictures for you. Discretion and good judgment is asked of the person doing this.
- **Is there a fee for the Baptism?**
  - ❖ It is customary to make a donation to the priest performing the Baptism.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at home (315) 492-1164 or by email at [dmrawson@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dmrawson@twcny.rr.com)

Thank you!  
Donna Rawson, Baptism Coordinator  
St. James Church, Syracuse