



## WHO THIS PACKET IS FOR

1. This packet is for parents seeking Baptism for children under the age of 7 at Saint Mary Magdalen Parish/Saint John Mission who are already registered members of the parish. *For inquiries about Baptism for older children and/or adults, please reach out the Pastoral Assistant for Adult Faith Formation.*

## ABOUT HOLY BAPTISM

2. “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit... and the door which gives access to the other sacraments”.<sup>A</sup> First and foremost, it is a sacrament of forgiveness of sins: it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification.

3. Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation form the three SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION, by which a person receives the forgiveness of both original and personal sin; begins a new life in Christ; has the gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon them; and is incorporated into the Church.

4. The RITE OF BAPTISM consists in immersing the person in water, or pouring water on the head, while invoking the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.<sup>B</sup>

5. Celebration of Baptism is governed by the law and regulations of the universal (global) Catholic Church; the Archbishop/Archdiocese of Seattle, and the parish Pastor.

**6. It is the responsibility of parents or legal guardians to request Baptism for a child; no one else may do it on their behalf without first consulting the Pastor.<sup>A</sup>**

## TIME & PLACE FOR BAPTISM

7. From its earliest years, the Church has baptized infants and children, who are born with original sin. Every person needs liberty from the power of the devil; to be brought into the freedom of the children of God. Thus, delaying Baptism deprives a child the a priceless and necessary grace of the Sacrament.<sup>D</sup>

8. Indeed, the Church says: “From the first centuries, the Church, to whom the mission of evangelizing and baptizing has been given, baptized not only adults but also children. Since the Lord said, ‘No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit,’<sup>E</sup> the Church has always understood that children are not to be deprived of Baptism...”<sup>F</sup>

9. **In order for a Baptism to be celebrated, parents must first be prepared and catechized regarding the Sacrament by the Church.<sup>G</sup> In the Archdiocese of Seattle, the necessary formation takes place through completion of a Baptism Preparation Class offered in any Catholic parish.<sup>H</sup>**

10. Consistent with the spirituality of the seasons of Advent and Lent, Baptism is not usually celebrated during these times.

11. Generally, Baptism is celebrated in the Baptistery of Saint Mary Magdalen church.

A *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*, promulgated in 1992 by Pope John Paul II, no. 1213

B cf. CCC, Glossary

C cf. *The Code of Canon Law (CIC)*, promulgated in 1983 by Pope John Paul II, can. 868 §1, 1°

D cf. CCC, nos. 1250-1252

E cf. *Colossians* 1:13; *Romans* 8:15; *Galatians* 4:5; *Decree on Justification*, ch. 4.

F *Baptism of Children* (2020), General Introduction, 2

G cf. *Christian Initiation* (2020), General Introduction, 7

H Sponsors (Godparents) must also complete this class. To register for one in our parish, go to [smmparish.org/baptism](http://smmparish.org/baptism).



## PARENTS' DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

12. For a child to be baptized, at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic who agrees to raise the child in the Church's Faith.

13. Parents should be actively living their faith, participating in the Sacraments, and seeking to deepen their relationship with God.

14. Prior to conferral of Baptism, parents must:

- Ensure paperwork is in order
- Select *fitting* Sponsors
- Complete a Baptism preparation course
- Make the Pastor or Baptism Coordinator aware of any special needs the child to be baptized or their family may have.

15. Parents have a sacred responsibility to:

- Raise their children in the Faith, instructing them of the practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- Present their child for First Communion and Confirmation.

16. If, after conversation with the family, the Pastor determines that there is a lack of intent on the part of the parents to raise the child Catholic in this way, he may determine that it is appropriate to delay Baptism until evidence of a serious intent to do so has been shown.



## SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

17. In the Catholic Church, *godparents* for candidates for Baptism are known as SPONSORS.

18. The role of Sponsors for Baptism is marked by efforts to assist the Baptized throughout their life; to lead it in a Christian manner, in keeping with the dignity of Baptism; and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.<sup>I</sup>

19. Sponsors are chosen by the parents. They must be willing to accept the responsibility of presenting the child for Baptism in the rite itself; serving as witnesses of the celebration.

20. Parents may not be Sponsors for their own children; the same is generally true of grandparents. And, because Sponsors should be able to help the child on the journey of faith, they must be:

- A *practicing* Catholic in good standing;
- An example of mature faith;
- Confirmed, and at least sixteen years old;
- If married, whether to each other or to someone else, it must be sacramental (celebrated/validated in the Church.)

21. Only one Sponsor is needed, while two is the maximum number. If there are to be two, one is male and one is female.<sup>J</sup>

22. Sponsors must be practicing members of a Catholic faith community (parish). To witness to this, a letter or signature of permission from their Pastor (parish priest) is required to be a Sponsor.

23. On occasion, a baptized non-Catholic may serve as a *Christian Witness* but not formally as a Sponsor.<sup>K</sup> The ability or willingness of the non-Catholic to support parents in their intention to raise their child in the Catholic faith is to be considered.

I cf. CIC, can. 872

J cf. CIC, can. 873

K cf. CIC, can. 874 §2

**Baptisms are only scheduled once all paperwork is completed + submitted.**

*(See reverse side of next page for checklist and next steps.)*

This page gets filled out by parents and turned in to the Parish Office.

**Full Legal Name of Child:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth place (city, state): \_\_\_\_\_

Mother

**Full Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacraments Received (circle):    Baptism                      First Communion                      Confirmation

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Married in the Catholic Church by a Priest/Deacon?    Yes    No

Father

**Full Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacraments Received (circle):    Baptism                      First Communion                      Confirmation

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Married in the Catholic Church by a Priest/Deacon?    Yes    No

Family

**Full Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, State, ZIP Code

Female Sponsor

**Full Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacraments Received (circle):    Baptism                      First Communion                      Confirmation

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Married in the Catholic Church by a Priest/Deacon?    Yes    No

Male Sponsor

**Full Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacraments Received (circle):    Baptism                      First Communion                      Confirmation

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Married in the Catholic Church by a Priest/Deacon?    Yes    No



## Checklist of Needed Items for the Celebration of Baptism

1. Photocopy of the Child’s Birth Certificate (*government-issued*)
2. Baptism Registration Form (*reverse side of this sheet*)
3. Sponsor Application Form(s):                    \_\_\_ Female Sponsor                    \_\_\_ Male Sponsor
4. Pastor’s Permission to be a Godparent:        \_\_\_ Female Sponsor                    \_\_\_ Male Sponsor  
(*if not a parishioner at St. Mary Magdalen - either fill out the bottom section of the sponsor application or get a separate letter from the applicant’s parish priest/office*)
5. Sponsor Confirmation Certificate(s):        \_\_\_ Female Sponsor                    \_\_\_ Male Sponsor
6. Sponsor Sacramental Marriage Certificate(s): \_\_\_ Female Sponsor                    \_\_\_ Male Sponsor  
(*if married*)
7. Baptism Preparation Class:                    \_\_\_ Mother                                \_\_\_ Father  
   \_\_\_ Female Sponsor                    \_\_\_ Male Sponsor



### Once Paperwork is complete...

Once you’ve completed filling out/compiling the necessary paperwork and attended a class, please schedule a short appointment with the PA for Adult Faith Formation to review the material.

*Note: Baptisms will not be scheduled until all paperwork has been completed/submitted and a meeting with the PA for Adult Faith Formation has taken place.*

### Ready to Schedule an Appointment?

Find a time to meet with Maxim Farrell, PA for Adult Faith Formation, by going to [WWW.BAPTISMS.SMM-SJM.ORG](http://WWW.BAPTISMS.SMM-SJM.ORG) or scanning the QR code above with your phone.

### Questions Not Answered Here?

Contact Maxim! Schedule an appointment using the link or QR code above, or reach out via phone at (425) 353-1211 ext. 110 or e-mail at [mfarrell@smmparish.org](mailto:mfarrell@smmparish.org)

*In his Passover Christ opened to all men the fountain of Baptism. He had already spoken of his Passion, which he was about to suffer in Jerusalem, as a “Baptism” with which he had to be baptized. The blood and water that flowed from the pierced side of the crucified Jesus are types of Baptism and the Eucharist, the sacraments of new life.*



## Sponsor Application and Commitment

- In the Catholic Church, SPONSOR refers to what we commonly know as **godparents**. As they are to be chosen by the parents of the child to be baptized, they may not be the parents themselves.<sup>A</sup>
- Since a Sponsor is to help the baptized on their journey of faith, they must be:**<sup>B</sup>
  - A practicing Catholic in good standing, who is an example of a mature, lived faith; willing and able to work with the baptized on his/her spiritual journey.
  - At least sixteen years of age, and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  - If married: must be sacramental, having been celebrated/con-validated in the Catholic Church.
  - Accepting of the responsibility to assist in the Rite of Baptism by presenting the child and witnessing therein to its celebration.
- Sponsor(s) must participate in a Baptism preparation program.** Our parish offers this program monthly in both English and Spanish, but it may be completed at other Catholic churches. In that case, a letter or certificate of completion should be included with the paperwork accompanying this form. Sign up for these classes at our parish in either English or Spanish is at [smmparish.org/baptism](http://smmparish.org/baptism).

### DOCUMENTS TO INCLUDE WITH THIS FORM

- A photocopy of your Confirmation certificate. (Original, or obtained from parish of your baptism.)
- If married, a photocopy of your marriage certificate that attests to a Catholic Sacramental wedding.
- Certification of Baptism Preparation completion.

A cf. CIC (Codex Iuris Canonici: the Code of Canon Law, promulgated in 1983 by Pope John Paul II), can. 874 §1, 5°

B cf. CIC, can. can. 874

### SPONSOR'S COMMITMENT

Having read the responsibilities and requirements of serving as a Sponsor (Godparent) above, I attest that I have come to understand the commitment and accept the responsibility of this role.

Signature of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Being Sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

### PASTOR'S PERMISSION TO SERVE AS A SPONSOR

If the Sponsor is not a parishioner of Saint Mary Magdalen and/or Saint John Mission, this portion must be filled out by the Pastor of the parish they are registered in.

Signature of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_



This form may be returned to the parish office once it has been signed and sealed by the parish of the sponsor-applicant:

- in person to the parish office by the parents or sponsor-applicant themselves
- via e-mail to [mfarrell@smmparish.org](mailto:mfarrell@smmparish.org)
- or in the mail, addressed to:

Saint Mary Magdalen Parish  
attn: Maxim Farrell  
8517 7th Avenue SE  
Everett, Washington 98208





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