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## Baptism FAQs for Parents

### Why Baptism?

- Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- Through Baptism, we are born into new life in Christ. Baptism incorporates us into the Body of Christ (the Church) and transforms our relationship with God: we are adopted to become children of God the Father, made members of Jesus Christ, and become temples of the Holy Spirit.

### Do I need to be a parish member of St. Charles to have my child(ren) Baptized here?

- We encourage all families seeking to Baptize their child at St. Charles to become registered and active St. Charles parishioners. We are excited to help you raise your child in the faith through our beautiful Masses, fellowship, ministries, and sacraments.
- For those that are not yet Parishioners: sign up on our St. Charles website by clicking "Register" at the top of our main page, or visit the link provided [here](#).
- If your family has a special connection with St. Charles, for example, you or your spouse attended St. Charles School, or your parents or grandparents are active Parishioners, please let us know.
- If you are not looking to become active parishioners, or you do not live locally, we encourage you to pursue getting your child Baptized at a Parish where you intend to be active in your hometown.

### Who can and cannot be a Godparent?

- Every child-to-be-baptized needs a minimum of one official sponsor or godparent, preferably two godparents. One male godparent and one female godparent are permitted.
- Per canon law, a Sponsor for Baptism must be an adult older than age 16 who is active in their Catholic faith. This Sponsor must have received the sacraments Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church, and they must attend Mass regularly.
- Individuals who are Christian, but not Catholic, cannot be Sponsors. They may, however, participate as a "Christian Witness."
- Both Sponsors and Christian Witnesses are called Godparents.
- A person who is Catholic, but publicly endorses teachings contrary to Catholic doctrine, may not serve as a godparent.

### What if a potential Godparent is not a registered member at any parish?

- Unfortunately, if the godparent is not a registered member at a parish, it is impossible for us to know whether someone is a practicing Catholic or not.
- The Godparent form signed by their pastor with their parish seal testifying that the individual is an active member is required.
- If for some reason they cannot get this form due to not being a registered member, moving recently, leaving for college, etc. - but the person actively attends Mass - then the godparent must request a letter on Parish letterhead from their pastor or local parish testifying their faith commitment.



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**Who are Baptism Mentor Couples? Are we required to meet with them?**

- Baptism Mentor Couples are active St. Charles parishioners assigned to support you in the Baptism preparation journey: sharing best practices in raising your child in the faith.
- Yes. You are required to meet with the Baptism Mentor Couples. This informal meeting is the replacement for a formal Baptism class.
- During the meeting, the Baptism Mentor Couples share their St. Charles Baptism experience, get to know you and your family, and also answer questions.
- Any questions that cannot be answered by the Mentor Couples should be emailed to: [baptisms@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:baptisms@stcharleshartland.org), and our Baptism Team will be ready to assist.

**What requirements do parents need to complete in order to schedule the Baptism date?**

- The parent's requirements include: your St. Charles membership confirmation, meeting with a mentor couple, reviewing the Baptism FAQs, submitting the [Baptism Request Form](#), and our receipt of the signed and sealed [Godparent Letter of Reference form\(s\)](#).
- The parents must send a copy of the Godparent Letter of Reference form to be completed by each godparent, this includes sponsor(s) as well as those who may be Christian Witnesses.
- Once the godparent complete section #1 of the letter, then they must have their respective Catholic Parish complete section #2 which includes a stamped parish seal. *Finally, the godparent's parish will need to mail the completed and signed form with Parish Seal to:*

**St. Charles Catholic Church**

**ATTN: Baptism Coordinator**

**313 Circle Drive**

**Hartland, WI 53029**

- Once all the requirements are fulfilled, our Baptism Coordinator will reach out to you to schedule a meeting to set the Baptism and Baptism Rehearsal dates. Scheduling is subject to the priest availability and parish calendar of events. At this time, Baptisms are held on Sundays during the 11:00 AM Mass or after Mass at 12:45 PM.

**When is the Baptism rehearsal? And who is required to attend?**

- The Baptism rehearsal is held in the church on Saturday, the day before the Baptism.
- At St. Charles, we celebrate the sacraments prayerfully and reverently. For this reason, we expect the parents (and at least one godparent) to be present for the rehearsal which is led by our Liturgist.
- This ensures both St. Charles and the family's confidence the next day with attire, logistics of the Church, parent and Godparent roles during the Mass or service etc.
- If there is a conflict or emergency, please call the Parish office as soon as possible.
- *Failure to attend the Baptism rehearsal may result in cancellation of the Baptism.*



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### Additional Resources to Learn about Baptism:

1. ***The Ultimate Guide to Catholic Baptism* (Ascension Press - Fr. Mike Schmitz)**
  - [https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/the-ultimate-guide-to-catholic-baptism?srsId=AfmBOoolxUyjtDgYZIS6K\\_8BwvoJ-EDpQ4mokXtWLxcDiL8p0vvxxKvW](https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/the-ultimate-guide-to-catholic-baptism?srsId=AfmBOoolxUyjtDgYZIS6K_8BwvoJ-EDpQ4mokXtWLxcDiL8p0vvxxKvW)
2. **Lessons on the Sacraments: Baptism (Divine Mercy - Fr. Chris Alar)**
  - <https://relevantradio.com/2025/03/lenten-lessons-on-the-sacraments-eight-baptism-matter-form-and-minister>
3. **Understanding the Sacraments: Baptism (Relevant Radio - Fr. Rocky's Podcast)**
  - <https://youtu.be/mRKT3MG9tE4?si=bTj3E6RVazz5FqkE>
4. **"Meaningful Ways to Celebrate Your Baby's Baptism" (Blessed Is She blog)**
  - [https://blessedisshe.net/blogs/blog/celebrate-baby-baptism?srsId=AfmBOorkjGearMsHuUEwfkeFx0rdCyiDxg7SIbcO13A0BB\\_cFwihMWBH](https://blessedisshe.net/blogs/blog/celebrate-baby-baptism?srsId=AfmBOorkjGearMsHuUEwfkeFx0rdCyiDxg7SIbcO13A0BB_cFwihMWBH)
5. ***Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God* (Ascension Press course)**
  - Designed to walk parents and godparents through baptism and the life of faith afterward. Includes engaging video sessions and reflection questions.
  - <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/belonging-baptism-in-the-family-of-god>
6. **FORMED.org**
  - Often described as "Catholic Netflix," it includes video series like:
    - *Reborn: You, Your Child and the Heart of Baptism*
    - *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained*
  - St. Charles offers free access! Contact the parish office if you don't have a [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org) log in yet.
7. ***Catholicism - Digital Series* by Bishop Robert Barron / Word on Fire**
  - High-quality video series explaining the beauty and depth of the Catholic faith. Not baptism-specific but excellent for adult formation.
  - <https://www.wofdigital.org/catholicism-series>