

Baptism Team Members:



Pastor
Baptism Interviews

Fr. David Sajdak, SDB

Baptism Interviews

Deacon Peter Takaoka

Baptism Administrator

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Pastor's Message to Parents:



Fr. Dave Sajdak, SDB

We are delighted that you are seeking Baptism for your child and we, your parish community, share in the joy of this celebration with you.

Baptism begins the initiation process into the fullness of the Catholic faith. It is an ancient Catholic rite that for many is almost an automatic reflex. Even parents whose practice of the faith is not strong will think of having their child baptized.

Because readiness for Baptism is often assumed, we are in danger of taking it for granted or 'doing it' for social, cultural or family reasons. Sadly, for some people, baptism is little more than a ticket to a Catholic School.

As pastor, I would like to reflect with you about the meaning of all this.

1. When you got married in the Catholic church, you made a promise to raise as good Christians the children whom God will give you.
2. Now at the Baptism of your child, be it your first or your fourth, is a time of grace; and an ideal time for you to review/renew what you have already committed on the day of your own Baptism, what you have renewed on your Confirmation and what you have promised on the day of your Catholic marriage—to live your faith and to raise your children in that same faith.

I share these reflections with you, in part to challenge you, but even more because you are so important.

Your child is eligible for baptism at this time because of you. I support and affirm you in your commitment to our faith and to passing on the faith to your child.

To assist you in the preparations of this joyful sacrament, please:

- *read through this booklet,*
- *complete the Registration Form, Questionnaire & Information Form for Baptism Sponsors,*
- *return the above to the parish office.*

May this time of preparation leading to your child's baptism be a grace-filled time for you and your family -- a time of renewal, refreshment and new life in the Spirit.

Peace, joy and health in the Lord.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Sajdak".

Fr. David Sajdak

B. What is Baptism all about?

Baptism is not a ceremony ‘done to’ a baby.

1. It is an event in which many people celebrate and welcome a child into the worshipping and believing community – the church.
2. Baptism gives your child an identity as a beloved son or daughter of the Father. It makes him/her part of a living group of people.
3. Baptism is about commitment, involvement and belonging.
4. You as parents promise to make this happen for your child.

Perhaps the simplest way to find out what Baptism means is to consider what happens when it is celebrated. Baptism is celebrated in four parts:

1. *The Welcome*
2. *Scripture readings and prayer*
3. *Baptism*
4. *Closing prayers and blessings*

C. Rite of Baptism

Part One: The Welcome

After welcoming you and your family and friends, the celebrant (priest or deacon) will ask for your child’s name. He then asks you this question:

What do you ask of God’s Church for your child?

He is asking you why you have come and you answer him in the presence of everyone.

He then speaks to you about your duties as parents and asks you if you accept the responsibility of raising your child in the faith. Our process is designed to help you give an informed “YES”.

He asks the sponsors a similar question.

The Welcome comes to a close with a simple and beautiful gesture: celebrant, parents and godparents trace the Cross on the baby’s forehead to claim the child for Jesus Christ.

As you can see, your part as parents is very important. The only real reason we can justify baptizing babies who cannot answer for themselves is our confidence they will be raised in the teachings and practice of the faith by Catholic parents.

Part Two: The Word of God

All the sacraments contain readings from the Bible. Only after we have listened to God speaking to us in the Scriptures do we perform the rites. This is because sacraments are not magic, but actions of Jesus Christ. By reading the Scriptures, we keep our roots in Christ.

After the reading, the celebrant gives a short homily to bring out the meaning of the Scriptures and Baptism.

The community prays for the child, for you the parents and godparents. We ask that strength be given to you to enable you to fulfill your responsibilities in handing on the Faith.

Finally, the celebrant, in a prayer of Exorcism, prays against the evils of the world that press in on us daily.



Part Three: The Rite of Baptism

This central moment of the sacrament itself has several parts:

1. *Blessing of the water*
2. *Rejection of Sin*
3. *Acceptance of Faith*
4. *Baptism*
5. *Anointing, Clothing, and Candle-lighting*

Blessing of the Water

The celebrant asks that the power of the Holy Spirit fill the waters, so that the child may become a new creation, modeled on the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this prayer, we recall the waters of Creation, the Flood, the Red Sea, the Jordan, and the water which flowed from Christ's wounded side on the Cross. The baptismal font is the descendant of them all. It is the womb of the Church, from which your child is reborn in Christ and becomes a member of God's holy family. For these reasons, the font has a prominent place close to the altar and pulpit.



Rejection of Sin

Once more, parents and godparents have a crucial role in the sacrament. The priest asks you three times to reject sin, evil and Satan. He asks you if you will make a commitment to fight against hatred, fear, deceit, selfishness, greed and violence. These are the things that disfigure the human race and from which the Gospel is meant to free us. You will be asked to reject them in both your name and the child's.

The Acceptance of Faith

The celebrant asks you three questions. They are the heart of the Catholic faith in a nutshell:

1. *Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?*
2. *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*
3. *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?*

These are the Baptismal vows which you renew for yourself and make for your child. The rejection of sin and the acceptance of the faith which you proclaim are public decisions. Answering these questions aloud before God and the church is a wonderful opportunity for you to renew the promises once made for you in Baptism.

The Baptism

You have brought your child to the place where the Catholic community worships. You have heard the Word of God. You have made a public declaration of the faith for yourself and for your baby. The celebrant asks:

Is it your desire that your child be baptized in the faith of the Church which we have all professed with you?



With your 'YES', the celebrant pours water over the child praying:



*I baptize you in the Name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

The word 'baptize' is a Greek word which means 'to plunge' or to 'dunk'. By this gesture and these words, your child is plunged into the love of God, the grace of Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

This gesture and these words take place only after the Welcome, the Word, the Blessing, the Rejection of Sin and the Profession of Faith. We can see that Baptism is not a magical ceremony, but a Sacrament. It captures in action, symbol and language what being a Catholic is about. Your child is now a member of God's holy family, the Church, and a reborn son/daughter of God the Father in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anointing, the Clothing, and Candle-lighting

To complete the Sacrament, there are three final signs. These draw out the inner meaning of the Baptism. As the saying goes, 'believing comes from praying', so we understand better what has happened in the pouring of water and the words of prayer if we pay attention to what goes on as we do it.



The priest *anoints* the child with perfumed oil, called chrism. This same oil is used to anoint priests and even royalty. When the children are 'christened', they become 'Christs'. Christ means anointed one. This post baptismal anointing announces a future anointing, that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the young person confirms the decision of the parents.



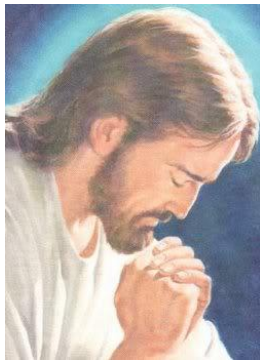
The *white robe* of baptism signifies dignity. The white robe worn by priests, deacons and ministers signifies this baptismal robe. It means we have '*put on*' Christ.

The *candle*, lit from the Easter candle, signifies the light of the Risen Jesus burning in the child's heart.



Part Four: Closing Prayers and Blessings

Together, the assembly prays the Lord's Prayer which is the special mark of belonging of the disciples of Jesus. The whole Sacrament comes to a close with blessings for the father and mother and the whole gathering.



Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

H. Some Questions People Ask about Baptism

1. Can our baby be baptized if we're not married? Not married in the Church?

Your baby's Baptism and your marriage are two separate issues. Your marital status may be discussed during your Baptism interview, to encourage you to get married (or validate your marriage in the Church) if this is appropriate. However, as long as you are committed to raising your child as a Catholic, he/she may celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and be welcomed into the Church.

2. Can our baby be baptized if we're not practicing Catholics?

Baptism is more than a rite of passage for an infant, or a washing away of original sin. Baptism is a sharing in the life of the risen Christ. Baptism is also the first step of initiation into the Christian community. During the Rite of Baptism, parents promise to raise their child IN THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH. Parents who are not practicing members of the community may be asked to *delay* the Baptism of their child until they have re-established that connection.

3. Can our child be baptized in a parish if we do not live within the parish boundaries?

Baptism, like all of the sacraments, is a celebration of a living relationship with God and with the local believing community, the parish. The sacraments are celebrations of our Church and, as such, are **normally celebrated** in the **parish where the family resides or is registered and usually worships**.

4. How do we arrange to have our child baptized in a parish other than the one where we normally worship?

If, for a good reason (for example, so extended family may attend), parents wish to have their child baptized in another parish, they need to contact the Parish office to ask if the Pastor is willing to baptize their child.

A **letter of permission** to have the baby baptized elsewhere must be obtained from the Pastor of the parish where the family usually worships.

5. What must I do to register my baby for baptism?

To register your child for baptism, complete the following:

- Read through this booklet
- Complete the REGISTRATION FORM, QUESTIONNAIRE & INFORMATION FORM FOR BAPTISM SPONSORS.
- Return them to the parish office.

6. How many sponsors are required?

The child may have only one or two godparents. If two godparents are chosen, one is to be a man and the other a woman. (Canon 873)

7. Can a Roman Catholic who is not confirmed be a sponsor or at least a Christian Witness?

The Christian Witness is a provision for non-Catholics. The requirement to be a sponsor is that they must be confirmed. See Requirement in order to Fulfil Role of Sponsor.

8. Can a person of the Orthodox faith be a sponsor?

A member of the Eastern Orthodox Church may be a sponsor together with a Catholic.

9. How much do I give for a baptism?

The church does not attach a price for a sacrament. However, just like in your family, love is not enough. The bills have to be paid. A free-will offering from you is appropriate. It shows your gratitude to the Church.

It also reflects your responsible stewardship and participation in the shared expenses of running the church. So, an appropriate offering would be whatever is realistic for you. It should reflect your family's financial possibility.

A practical guideline is this: *HOW MUCH ARE YOU SPENDING IN OTHER AREAS FOR THE BAPTISM*: clothing, hairdressing, esthetics, meal, party, gifts/ mementos etc. If you're going to spend that much on these secondary elements of the day, how much is the actual celebration of baptism worth to you?

10. May a child be "rebaptized" if he/she was baptized in a hospital, etc. in an emergency situation?

A person may be baptized only once. However, parents should bring their child to complete the welcoming ceremonies (which are part of the Baptismal Rite) in their own parish.

Baptismal Catechesis

A. The Role of Parents

Parents have the primary responsibility for handing on the faith to their child.

The Prayer for Parents calls them *“the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they also be the best teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do.”*

As part of the Welcome, parents make the public statement that they accept the responsibility *“of training them in the practice of the faith.”*

The rejection of sin and the acceptance of the faith is an essential part of the Sacrament. These promises are made by the parents. They bind themselves with their child. This means that parents are challenged to take stock of their lives, and to renew the commitments once made for them by their parents.



D. How do I Choose a Baptism Sponsor?

Have you ever wondered why some people have very involved sponsors while others don't even know theirs? Perhaps part of the problem is that many sponsors were chosen for the wrong reasons, or because those same people don't really know what they're supposed to do!

Too often parents want to honour a special friend, repay a favour, or encourage a nonrelative to have a closer relationship with their child. While all of these motives are well intentioned, they are not ideal. If you want to be happy about your decision, consider the following.

E. The Role of Sponsors

The sponsors play a special role not just in the celebration of Baptism, but especially in the faith-life of the child. It is an honour to be chosen as sponsor, but there is much more to the role than just being honoured.

The sponsor is someone:

1. **who acts as mentor,**
2. **a “spiritual” parent,**
3. **a “companion on the journey” of becoming a more committed and responsible Catholic Christian.**

F. Requirement in order to Fulfill Role of Sponsor

To be this mentor for your child in the best possible way, the sponsor needs to be:

1. at least sixteen (16) years of age
2. a confirmed Catholic
3. a practicing Catholic:
 - Registered in a Parish
 - Weekly participation in the Sunday Eucharist
 - Regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - **MARITAL STATUS** in accordance with the Catholic Church
 - willing to profess enthusiastically his or her faith
4. Ready to commit to accept the privileges and responsibilities of a sponsor
5. It is most preferable that there be TWO sponsors: one man and one woman and that they both be practicing ROMAN CATHOLICS. (Canon 873)
6. The sponsor must not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized since the parents already have a privileged role in raising the child in the faith.

The role is an important one to be taken seriously. Take your time to make this choice in a meaningful way.

Christian Witness

1. The Christian Witness is a provision for non-Catholics.
2. One Christian Witness is allowed only if there is one baptized sponsor (Canon 874).
3. A Christian Witness is a baptized Christian and a member of a non-Catholic ecclesial community (e.g. Anglican, Presbyterian, etc.).
4. A Christian Witness is a witness to the Baptism, **not a sponsor**.
5. It is not necessary to have a Christian witness
6. A Roman Catholic **cannot** be a Christian Witness.
7. If there is only one sponsor, that person must be a **CONFIRMED ROMAN CATHOLIC**. See Requirement in order to Fulfill Role of Sponsor.
8. No child may be baptized without a sponsor.

All this may seem like quite a bit, but the purpose is to ensure that the rich and beautiful faith of the Church is passed on to your child in the most loving and authentic way possible.

Hopefully you know by now, that the task of choosing sponsors is one which should be performed with much prayer, careful thought and with greatest concern for the precious spiritual life of your child.



*May the Holy Spirit guide you
as you choose your sponsor!
Pray for this person,
that moved by the same Spirit,
he or she will accept the role
with a prayerful and enthusiastic response.*

Preparing for the Day of Baptism

Once the Baptism date is set, the following matters will need some attention:

1. **BE PRAYERFULLY PREPARED**

Reflect on your answer to the question at the Welcome ceremony: ~ WHAT DO YOU ASK OF GOD'S CHURCH FOR YOUR CHILD? Also, be ready to make the PROFESSION OF FAITH and the promise of raising your child in the practice of the Catholic faith. Perhaps it is appropriate for you to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the day of your child's baptism.

2. **WHITE GARMENT**

It is preferable that your baby be dressed in a white, loose-fitting garment for the Baptism: **WHITE** because traditionally, this is a sign of purity in the newly-baptized and **LOOSE-FITTING** so that your child may be easily anointed on the chest.

3. **ARRIVING ON TIME**

Baptisms are celebrated **every first and last Sunday of the month** after the last mass:

SEPTEMBER – JUNE	2:00 PM
JULY – AUGUST	12:15 PM

A suggestion is to attend the last scheduled Sunday Mass and stay for the Baptism. This alleviates parking problems and ensures you and your family is on time. If you are not attending the last Mass, plan to be in the church **15 MINUTES** prior to the start time. Parents and sponsors are to be seated in the front pews. Other family members and guests are to sit in the pews behind all the parents and sponsors.

4. **PICTURES AND VIDEOS**

Baptism is sacred. The sacredness of this Sacrament and the primary place it holds is reflected in our actions and practices during the ceremony. In order that reverence and full respect be given throughout the celebration, please note: **PICTURE-TAKING AND VIDEO-TAPING ARE PROHIBITED DURING THE BAPTISM CEREMONY.** OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY ARE POSSIBLE **AFTER** THE BAPTISM. Kindly share this information with your family and guests in advance of the Baptism day.

BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM

ST. BENEDICT CHURCH

Please print clearly

updated November 22, 2018

FATHER	Kindly staple a <u>copy</u> of YOUR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE to this form and return them together.				
	First Name	Last Name		Religion	
	Cell Phone	Day Phone	Evening Phone	Email	
MOTHER	Kindly staple a <u>copy</u> of YOUR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE to this form and return them together.				
	First Name	Last Name	Maiden Name	Religion	
	Cell Phone	Day Phone	Evening Phone	Email	
ADDRESS	Street		City	Apt #	Postal Code
PARISH	Name of church you currently attend				
	Are you a registered parishioner of St. Benedict Church? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
MARITAL STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Separated / Divorced		<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged to be married <input type="checkbox"/> Common law		<input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
	If married	Were either you or your spouse previously married?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Were either you or your spouse previously separated or divorced?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Were you married in a church or civilly?			<input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Civilly
		City & Country of Marriage		Date of Marriage	
		Name of Church		Denomination of Church	
CHILD	CHILD'S LEGAL NAME AS SHOWN ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE ~ ATTACH A PHOTOCOPY OF CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO THIS FORM.				
	First Name		Middle Name		Last Name
	Date of Birth	Year	Month	Day	City & Country of Birth
SPONSOR(S)	<i>See note on choosing a sponsor in Baptism Booklet - At least ONE sponsor must be Roman Catholic.</i>				
MALE SPONSOR	First Name		Last Name		Sacrament of Confirmation received <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married in the Church <input type="checkbox"/> Separated / Divorced		<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law		<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
FEMALE SPONSOR	First Name		Last Name		Sacrament of Confirmation received <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married in the Church <input type="checkbox"/> Separated / Divorced		<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law		<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
CHRISTIAN WITNESS	<i>This is a provision for a non-Catholic person who is a baptized Christian in communion with the Roman Catholic Church i.e. Anglican, Presbyterian etc.</i>				
	First Name		Last Name		M / F Christian Denomination
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married in the Church <input type="checkbox"/> Separated / Divorced		<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law		<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
THIS BOX TO BE COMPLETED BY BAPTISM TEAM MEMBER					
PARENT(S) BAPTISM CERTIFICATE RECEIVED		Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Father <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE RECEIVED					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
INTERVIEW	Date			Time	
BAPTISM	Date			Time	

I certify that the above information is true to my knowledge. Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print clearly.

St. Benedict Church
2194 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke, ON M9W 4K9

MOTHER'S BAPTISM QUESTIONNAIRE

416-743-3830

The Baptism of your child, be it your first or your fourth, is an opportune time for you to pause and take stock of your life and to review and renew the commitment already made to your faith. One way to do this is to reflect on and answer the following. Please take time to complete each response. Kindly bring your completed sheet to the parish with your completed Baptism Registration form.

1. My understanding of faith is _____

2. I am Catholic because... _____

3. For me, Church means... _____

4. What I like about being a Catholic is... _____

5. What I find difficult about being a Catholic is ... _____

6. For me, it is important to have my child baptized because... _____

7. I see my responsibilities resulting from having my child baptized as... _____

8. Tell about how your belief in Jesus makes a difference in your personal and family life. _____

9. Baptism will make my child's life different because... _____

10. How did you choose your Sponsor(s)? How do they fulfill the criteria for sponsors? _____

Please print clearly.

St. Benedict Church
2194 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke, ON M9W 4K9

FATHER'S BAPTISM QUESTIONNAIRE

416-743-3830

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2. I am Catholic because... _____

3. For me, Church means... _____

4. What I like about being a Catholic is... _____

5. What I find difficult about being a Catholic is ... _____

6. For me, it is important to have my child baptized because... _____

7. I see my responsibilities resulting from having my child baptized as... _____

8. Tell about how your belief in Jesus makes a difference in your personal and family life. _____

9. Baptism will make my child's life different because... _____

10. How did you choose your Sponsor(s)? How do they fulfill the criteria for sponsors? _____

Information Form for Baptism Sponsor 1

SPONSOR, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE PARENTS OF CHILD FOR BAPTISM.

Congratulations! The relationship between the child for Baptism and the sponsor is unique. You are embarking on a special journey, one that will last for years.

The Church requires that to undertake this role, a sponsor be:

- at least 16 years of age
- fully initiated through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- a practicing Catholic and a Christian example for the candidate. This includes:
 - weekly participation in the Sunday Eucharist,
 - regular celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation
 - marital status in accordance to the Catholic faith: persons living in an invalid marriage or who are unmarried and cohabitating place themselves by their life choice outside of the possibility of sponsor.

SPONSOR	First Name	Last Name	
Church you currently attend	Name	City & Country	Postal Code
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Separated/divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged to be married <input type="checkbox"/> Common law	<input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
Church of Marriage	Name	City & Country	Postal Code
Church of Confirmation	Name & Date	City & Country	Postal Code
Name of Child you are Sponsoring for Baptism	First Name	Last Name	

I certify that the above information is true to my knowledge:

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Information Form for Baptism Sponsor 2

SPONSOR, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE PARENTS OF CHILD FOR BAPTISM.

Congratulations! The relationship between the child for Baptism and the sponsor is unique. You are embarking on a special journey, one that will last for years.

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 - marital status in accordance to the Catholic faith: persons living in an invalid marriage or who are unmarried and cohabitating place themselves by their life choice outside of the possibility of sponsor.

SPONSOR	First Name	Last Name	
Church you currently attend	Name	City & Country	Postal Code
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Separated/divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged to be married <input type="checkbox"/> Common law	<input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Annulled
Church of Marriage	Name	City & Country	Postal Code
Church of Confirmation	Name & Date	City & Country	Postal Code
Name of Child you are Sponsoring for Baptism	First Name	Last Name	

I certify that the above information is true to my knowledge:

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____