



Christ the King Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

125 Park Road Leechburg, PA 15656

724-845-8191 Jim Peterman Coordinator

Dear Parents:

Congratulations on the upcoming Baptism of your child. The Christ the King Community of Faith welcomes you and your family to this special time of preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, the sacrament of belonging and initiation into the Catholic way of life.

We wish to join you in the responsibility of forming your child in the faith. We offer you the means to deepen your appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism through study, reflection, and sharing. Today's understanding of Baptism emphasizes an enlivened faith, a meaningful celebration of the ceremony, and a nourished sense of our ongoing mission as Catholic Christians. The challenges of such involvement on your part highlight the beauty of this time in your personal family as well as in our parish family.

I hope this packet assists you in the journey to fulfill your role as Christian parents. In order to begin the process of preparation for Baptism, I invite you to first contact me at the parish office and set up a date for instruction and check the open dates available for baptism. Then download the packet and begin to complete the necessary documentation. Have the documentation completed and bring it with you to the instructional session.

I hope that you will take time to reflect, as individuals and as a couple, on what it means to have your child baptized into a Catholic faith community. We emphasize here at Christ the King the importance of the "domestic church" – the church of the home. The family home is the place where your child will first encounter a loving God who lives within each person. It is within the church of the home that your child will be exposed to the Catholic way of life and prepares to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Once I receive your completed Pre-Baptismal Information Forms, I will call you to confirm receipt of your paperwork, Baptismal Workshop date, Baptismal date, and answer any questions you may have regarding your child's baptism here at Christ the King Parish.

Many Blessings,

James Peterman
Coordinator of Faith Formation
and Religious Education

Considerations When Requesting the Sacrament of Baptism

When and where is Baptism celebrated?

The child should receive Baptism as soon as it is practical after birth, taking into consideration the health of mother and child and the readiness of the parents and godparents to accept the demands that baptism places on them.

1. In setting the time for Baptism, the first consideration is the welfare of the child and that it is not deprived of the benefit of the sacrament.
2. In danger of death, the child should be baptized immediately.
3. When the health of the child is not a factor, another consideration is the readiness of the parents to accept the responsibility of bringing their child into the faith.
4. Sometimes the parents are not ready for the celebration of Baptism, or they ask for their child to be baptized, although the child will not afterward receive a Christian education and will even lose the faith. Since the rite itself does not allow enough time to resolve these dilemmas or train the parents in the faith, Baptism may be delayed until proper commitment and catechesis on the part of the parents is ascertained.

In the case of adoption

A certificate issued by a United States' court must be presented to verify that the adoption is formal, final and irrevocable. Parents and godparents must ask themselves if they are ready to accept the responsibility of hand on the faith to their child since this task is charged primarily to them.

Baptism should normally be celebrated in the parish of the infant's parents by the parish priest.

Because Baptism binds a child to the universal church through a local community, at least one parent must be a registered, active member of Christ the King Parish for at least two months prior to setting the date of Baptism. This means, at minimum, regular participation in the Eucharist on Sundays and holy days of obligation, regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, support of the church according to one's abilities and active participation in the apostolic work of the church.

Requesting a baptism when you are members of another parish will require permission from your pastor to allow the child to be baptized in another parish as well as agreement of the priest who will perform the baptism. Requesting a priest other than the parish priest to perform the baptism will require the permission of the pastor.

Parish Baptism Schedule

At Christ the King Parish, Baptisms are generally celebrated during or during the 9:30 A.M. Mass on Sundays. Because we are partnered with St. Gertrude Church, Fr. James is not available at Christ the King Church every Sunday. Considerations for other times may be made by the pastor.

Baptisms are not celebrated outside the church and not celebrated during Lent, i.e., from Ash Wednesday until the Easter Vigil.

What preparations are necessary before a child may be baptized?

Parents must contact the parish office, complete the Pre-baptismal Information Form and attend a Baptismal Prep class before the Baptism can officially be scheduled.

Godparents must meet canonical and diocesan eligibility requirements and obtain a letter or form from their pastor stating that they are suitable to be godparents.



Parent Timeline Sheet

1. Begin Preparation Early.

If possible, start the Baptism process as soon as you know you are pregnant. Most families find this easier.

2. Be registered at a Parish and Stay Active.

Baptism is a sacrament of initiation into the Family of God, the Catholic Faith Community. It is a sacrament of belonging. Therefore, the first step is that the child's family be part of the community, which means that they should be registered and *active members of the parish for *at least three months*.

3. Contact the Parish Office.

Contact the Faith Formation Coordinator to set a date for the instructional session and reserve the Baptismal date. Keep in mind that there may be more than one family having a child baptized on any particular Sunday.

4. Complete the Pre-Baptismal Information Form and Attach Your Godparent Forms.

Return the forms at the instructional session. All godparents, whether from Christ the King Parish or from other parishes need to sign *The Role of the Godparent Form* and get a letter from their Pastor (Certificate of Eligibility Form), saying that they are practicing Catholics who are prepared to be godparents. Godparents represent the Catholic Community at the Baptism. Their role is to support the growth of the Catholic faith in your child.

4. Attend a Baptism Preparation Workshop.

Both parents are required by the Diocese to attend a Baptism Preparation Workshop. Sessions are scheduled at the convenience of both the parent's and coordinator's availability.

5. Confirm the Date for the Baptism.

Do not schedule family arrangements until the Baptism date is confirmed with the Baptism Coordinator and all Sacramental preparations are complete.

**Active membership in the parish is communicated in a number of ways, including the following:*

- Active participation in a ministry. Christ the King Parish offers many ministries which provide an opportunity for active membership. We want you to feel part of Christ the King community! One of the ministries is bound to fit you. Christ the King is an energetic and dynamic community because our members are actively involved with our community.
- Regular participation in Mass on a weekly basis. It takes us all actively participating to create a vibrant celebration. The greater the vibrancy of the Mass, the more it touches hearts.

GODPARENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You represent the Catholic Faith Community. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on Catholic doctrine and values to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events – Christmas, Easter, personal growth events, graduation, first job, and engagement.
- Participate in, or and assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly, First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community, and Reconciliation.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- **And most importantly**, become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in parish life and liturgy, particularly weekly Sunday Mass.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith. Godparents must meet Canon Law requirements and Diocesan Guidelines, which state that the godparents:

1. be at least sixteen years of age;
2. be a fully initiated Catholic (having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
3. be in a marriage that has the blessing of the Catholic Church
4. be an active member of my Catholic parish regularly receiving the sacraments;
5. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized. **Canon 874**

GODPARENT'S COMMITMENT

I affirm that I meet these qualifications and understand my commitment to my Godchild and accept the responsibility of being a godparent for:

Print Name of Child

Print Name of Godparent

Signature of Godparent

Date of Commitment



Pre-Baptismal Information Form

Date _____

Child's Information

Complete Name of the Child _____

Date of Child's Birth _____

Place of Child's Birth _____

Preliminaries & History

Christ the King Church

St. Gertrude Church

Verify census information on file (Office Use) Yes No

Are you receiving correspondence & envelopes from the Church? Yes No

Are you requesting Baptism for your child of your own free will? Yes No

Was the child adopted? Yes No

Was the child previously baptized? Yes No

Circumstances _____

Family Information

Father's Full Name: _____

Father's Religion/membership _____

Mother's Full Name & Maiden: _____

Mother's Religion/membership _____

Residential Mailing Address _____

Telephone Numbers _____

E-mail address _____

Names & Ages of Children at Home 1. _____

(Have any missed their Sacraments?) 2. _____

3. _____

Notations:

Godparent Information

Godfather's / Witness's Full Name _____

Religion & Church Attending _____

Forms Attached (Office Use) Role of the Godparent Certificate of Eligibility

Godmother's / Witness's Full Name _____

Religion & Church Attending _____

Forms Attached (Office Use) Role of the Godparent Certificate of Eligibility

Instruction (Office Use)

Date & Place of Instruction _____

Attendance _____

Baptismal Date Requested _____

Baptizing Priest _____

Remarks
