



Preparing for Baptism

A Parent and Godparent Resource

The Sacrament of Baptism brings your child into a new life in Christ and welcomes them into the family of the Church. This is more than a single moment; it begins a lifelong journey of faith. **Parents have a special place on that journey, helping your child discover what it means to follow Jesus.**



What happens at Baptism?

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian Initiation, leading to First Eucharist and Confirmation. Baptism begins a life of Christian discipleship as your child:

- receives new life in Christ through sacramental grace
- is freed from Original Sin
- receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through anointing with chrism
- becomes a member of the Church



Parents are first teachers of faith

In the first few years of life, parents are the most important witnesses of faith for a child. As parents, take a few moments to reflect on the following:

- What do I hope my child receives as a member of this Church?
- Why am I choosing Baptism for my child?
- What am I promising to my child as I present him/her to the Church?
- What do I wish for from my child's chosen godparent(s)?



Who can be a godparent?

The Church requires that a child have at least one godparent, and if there are two, provides for one male and one female (Canon 873).

A godparent must:

- Be at least 16 years of age and chosen by the parents
- Be a fully initiated Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, living a life of faith.

A baptized Christian who is not Catholic cannot serve as the Catholic godparent, but may participate as a Christian witness.

"Baptism unites us in the one family of the Church." - Pope Leo | January, 2026



Baptism is a beginning, not a finish line.

The goal is not to simply prepare for **one day**, but to help your child become a lifelong disciple of Jesus. There are lots of helpers available to support a child in their journey of Initiation, including: home, school, and parish.



HOME

Your child is already deeply loved by you, and by God. Take time to celebrate this love throughout the various stages of childhood development:

- Bless your child before bed.
- Begin a simple family prayer tradition.
- Celebrate the anniversary of your child's Baptism.
- Let Eucharist become part of your family's rhythm.
- Talk about God, pray, serve, and participate in the life of your parish.



SCHOOL

Catholic Schools in the province of Ontario provide religious education for children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 using a program called *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*. A large component of this education includes ongoing Sacramental Catechesis to support a child's growing understanding of their journey of faith in relationship to the Sacraments. Our Catholic Schools help children mature in their relationship with the person of Jesus Christ, and foster a daily praxis of faith.



PARISH

You are not alone! Our parish community accepts the responsibility of helping your family grow in faith. Our parishes are called to become places where young families are known, welcomed, accompanied, and invited into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another—from Baptism and throughout the whole journey of faith.

We are so happy you are here and welcome you with gladness. Reach out to us and tell us how we can be of support to your family.

A Prayer before Baptism

God of new beginnings,
you made us in your image and likeness,
and blessed us
so that we may become stewards of your creation.
Through the intercession
of holy men and women of all times,
bless this child created according to your likeness
and about to begin his/her Christian journey.
May he/she walk faithfully
in the path of your Son,
witness the Gospel of love and mercy,
and contribute with the work of his/her hands
to make visible your Kingdom on earth.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family, 1993

