

Prior to selecting Godparents, please be sure that they meet the following criteria:

- They must be at least 16 years of age.
- They must be a fully initiated Catholic ~ having received the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation.
- They must be a currently practicing Catholic registered in a Catholic parish.
- They must be someone other than the parents of the child to be baptized.

WRAPPING IT ALL UP!

After completing the Baptism Preparation sessions you will be asked to fill out forms and to select the date/time of your child's baptism. To aid you in being able to complete these forms at the session it will help to be sure that you know/bring the following information:

- Full name, date and place of birth of child. (This information may be provided to the Baptism team after the birth of your child).
- Both of the child's parents' full and legal names (Including Maiden name for mother).
- Date and place of the child's parents' marriage (If applicable).
- Full and legal names of Godparents **and** the name of the Parish where they are registered.

Baptism is the first step on your child's journey of faith. As the first teachers of your child, may God bless you in your role of raising, teaching and caring for your child. They will learn many important things from you, but none as important as living a Christian life.

CHECKLIST PRIOR TO ATTENDING BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES:

If you are not registered in the parish, you must first attend a New Member meeting and complete registration.

Read all of the enclosed information.

Choose a Baptismal Preparation Session time to attend. Pre-Registration is not required.

Decide on whom you will ask to be the Godparents (please be sure they meet required criteria prior to selection).

Invite your chosen Godparents to attend Sessions with you (Godparent attendance is not required, but encouraged).

Be sure to know/ bring the requested information and dates with you to your Sessions.

*It is very important that all the steps outlined in this brochure take place. **If all requirements are not met, your chosen Baptism date may be delayed.***

2011/2012 BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS	CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM*
<i>Mondays, July 25 & Aug. 8</i>	Aug - 13/14
<i>Tuesdays, Sept 6 & 13</i>	Sept - 17/18
<i>Tuesdays, Oct 4 & 11</i>	Oct - 15/16
<i>Wednesdays, Nov 2 & 9</i>	Nov- 12/13
<i>Tuesdays, December 6 & 13</i>	Jan 7/8, 2012
<i>Mondays, Jan 30 & Feb 6</i>	Feb. 11/12
<i>Mondays, March 12 & 19</i>	April 14/15
<i>Tuesdays, May 22 & 29</i>	June 2/3
<i>Mondays, August 6 & 13</i>	Aug. 18/19
<i>Mondays, October 1 & 8</i>	Oct. 13 & 14

All Baptism Preparation Sessions are from 7:00-8:30 PM and are located in Loft 1. Attendance by both parents is required. Please Contact Denise Meyer in the parish office for any questions.

**Baptism's are offered at Sat. 5:00 PM Mass, Sunday 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM Masses and Sunday at 2:00 PM. No flash photography allowed during Mass times.*

Preparing For Your Child's Baptism



St. Gabriel the Archangel
5505 Bardstown Rd.
502-239-5481

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW CHILD!

The Parish of St. Gabriel rejoices with you as you prepare to welcome a new member who will grow in the Catholic faith. This brochure will help as you seek to baptize a child here at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. God has blessed you! Now as you prepare for baptism you affirm that you will raise your child in the practice of your faith.

The information given here is for Baptizing infants and children who have not yet reached the age of discernment or catechetical age (around 6). If your child is 7 or above please contact the parish office for information on Baptizing through a separate Rite.

FIRST STEP – MEMBERSHIP AT ST. GABRIEL

First, prior to the selection of any dates for your child's Baptism, you must be a registered parishioner here at St. Gabriel. Adult children living with parents, who are now seeking Baptism for their own child(ren), should register separately from their parents. You will need to attend a New Member meeting prior to beginning Baptismal Preparation. The dates and times for the monthly New Member meetings can be found on the inside front page of the bulletin.

Occasionally, families will ask to have the Sacrament celebrated at St. Gabriel, even though they are not members of our parish. If you are a member of another Catholic Church and are asking to have the sacrament celebrated here, we will need a letter from the pastor of the church where you are registered as evidence that you are a member in good standing and proof of completion of Baptismal Preparation at that church.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

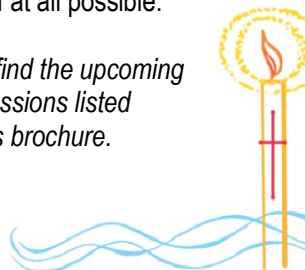
Both parents are required to attend two Baptismal Preparation sessions. We encourage you to attend before your baby is born. These sessions are given over two weeks. It is required that parents attend even if they have previously had a child or children Baptized at St. Gabriel. If one parent cannot attend, then arrangements must be made to make up classes. **Please make babysitting arrangements for any small children.**

In these sessions you will learn about sharing your Catholic faith with your child. Baptism Preparation Sessions not only will teach you about the Sacrament (ex: symbols, meanings, rituals, traditions, etc.) but will also help with ideas on how to make God, faith, and the Church a part of your everyday life.

Baptism Preparation Sessions invite interactive participation. Couples from the team will share ways they have made God and the Church a part of their family life and will share their experiences of the Baptism of their own children. They will invite participants to do the same.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be discussed at length. The theology, ritual, ceremony, Godparents' role, and practical things you need to know and all final details about the sacrament itself. It is highly recommended that your chosen Godparents attend the Baptismal Preparation session with you if at all possible.

You will find the upcoming dates for these sessions listed on the back of this brochure.



THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING GODPARENTS

One very important decision you will need to make before coming to the Baptismal Preparation Sessions is the choice of Godparents.

Godparents serve two important functions: *They represent the larger church community.* They, along with the priest and the parents, welcome the child to the community and signify that welcome by marking the child with the sign of the cross. As community, they are obliged to protect this newest member, guiding, advising, and nurturing the child as he or she progresses in the understanding of faith.

In addition, *godparents pledge to continually support the parents* so that they can successfully train the child in practice of the Catholic faith. They pledge an allegiance to the parents to bolster them in times of discouragement and to celebrate with them in times of joy. Godparents need to be actively involved in the Catholic tradition because they serve as models and guides to the child and the parents. Before a child is baptized, the parents promise to be responsible for the child's religious upbringing and the Godparents pledge their willingness to support the parents. This is why the Church asks that your child's Godparents be *active participating Catholics*. Your chosen Godparents will be asked to sign a certificate that pledges their full participation.

Two Catholic Godparents are recommended (one male, one female), but only one Catholic Godparent is required. A second non-Catholic may serve as a "Christian Witness" as long as the first Godparent is Catholic and as long as the witness is a baptized, practicing Christian. There are no provisions for more than two Godparents.