

# Saint Peter Catholic Church

## Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations on your decision to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Peter Church. Whether you are a parent of an infant/child, an adult seeking initiation into the Catholic Church, or somewhere inbetween, please read the appropriate steps listed below to ensure this process is meaningful and unencumbered.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Holy Spirit moves us to answer Christ's call to holiness and we are asked to walk by the light of Christ and trust in His wisdom.

Baptism is understood by Catholics to serve as the first "Sacrament of Initiation", a sign of God's grace on Earth which brings us into membership with the church. Jesus himself was baptized in the Jordan river as a sign of solidarity with us in order to reconcile us to the Father.

### Parents of Infants or Children up to the age of 7

- 1) Call Austin in the Parish Office at 610 380 9045 x101 to complete a Baptism Registration and schedule your child's baptism. The Parish Office is open from 9-3 Mon-Thurs or by appointment. Baptisms are celebrated at 12:30 pm, usually on the First & Third Sunday of each month.
- 2) Once the registration is complete, your child's Godparent(s) should immediately contact their current parish to obtain a "Certificate of Eligibility". **Note that at least one Godparent must meet the criteria stipulated in the Code of Canon Law in regard to Sponsors for the Sacrament of Baptism (see next page).** Godparents who are unable to satisfy these criteria are invited to serve as a "witness", provided they do so alongside a Godparent who does meet the requirements.
- 3) Godparents, once their certificate is obtained, are encouraged to promptly drop it off at the Parish Office. **An in-person drop off is preferable.** Should distance prove a barrier, the certificate can be mailed to:  
Saint Peter Church  
2835 Manor Road  
West Brandywine, PA 19320
- 4) Lastly, parents are strongly encouraged to complete the course "Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God" Certification Course offered through Ascension Press. This self paced course can be purchased for \$9.95 and completed entirely online with a certificate generated at completion. Once the certificate is obtained, should they wish, parents are welcome to meet with the Pastor or other Leadership Team member to strengthen their understanding of "Belonging"

[Follow this link to the "Belonging" Course on Ascension](#)

### Parents of Children age 7 or above

- 1) Visit, call the Parish Office at 610 380 9045, or email [krystal@saintpeterchurch.net](mailto:krystal@saintpeterchurch.net) to schedule an appointment with the Director of Religious Education. School age children and their parents benefit immensely from an additional level of catechesis, or teaching, during Sacramental preparation. To that end, Baptisms for school age children are arranged by appointment on a case-by-case basis.

### Non-Baptized Adults looking to “join the church”

- 1) If you are an adult, not having been baptized a Catholic (or in any other denomination), and would like to seek initiation into the Catholic Church, please visit or call the Parish Office at 610 380 9045 or email [office@saintpeterchurch.net](mailto:office@saintpeterchurch.net) to discuss the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).
- 2) RCIA is the process by which adults learn and grow in faith in preparation to receive their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, & Confirmation). Oftentimes, RCIA participants receive all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil, held each year on the night before Easter. At St. Peter, RCIA meets as an informal class/discussion time on Thursdays from 6-7:30 pm from September to June.

### Code of Canon Law 872-874 Concerning Sponsors (Godparents) at Baptisms

The following requirements are paraphrased from the 1983 Code of Canon Law (Can. 872-874)

- 1) Godparents must be at least 16 years of age
- 2) Godparents must have been Baptized, Confirmed in the Catholic Church, and received First Communion
- 3) Godparents must live in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- 4) A Godparent is not to be the father or mother of the one being Baptized.
- 5) There is to be only one male Godparent or one female Godparent, or one of each

Prospective Godparents who wish to serve as a witness but are unable to meet these requirements are permitted to do so only alongside a qualifying individual as a “Christian Witness”