



Dear Parents,

We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate the Baptism of your child within our parish community. To enable you and the parish to enjoy the celebration to the fullest, we have designed a preparation class that will present to you and your child's godparents the history, symbols, and theology of the Sacrament of Baptism. We will explore the importance of community, family traditions, and your personal faith journey, as well as take you step by step through the celebration ritual.

Enclosed, you will find a registration form. Please fill it out completely and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible, but no later than two weeks prior to your celebration date. Please schedule your preparation session as early as possible. You do not have to wait for the birth of your child to prepare. Many parents find it easier to schedule class *before* the baby arrives. Classes begin at 9 am in Room 3 of the Family Center and are scheduled to end at 10:30 am, but please note that class duration depends on the number of participants and may end prior to, but will not exceed the noted time. This is so we can individualize our presentations and best organize the environment. Please plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the class as there may be other events that effect parking. Please enter the building through door "C" in the Family Center.

Who should attend the class:

**Parents** preparing to baptize their first child or those who have not taken a preparation class within the last three years.

**Godparents** so that they may understand and embrace the joy and responsibility of their role in your child's faith life. Please note that if the godparents live out of the area, they may take a preparation class at their own parish and notify us upon completion.

If you are unable to attend our class, you may prepare at another parish, or complete an online course. The online course can be found at [www.catechismclass.com](http://www.catechismclass.com). Please note that the parish is willing to help with the cost of the online program.

We are often asked questions regarding godparents. Canon law and diocesan requirements state that:

Only one godparent is necessary. If two are chosen, one must be male and the other female. All godparents must be at least 16 years old. At least one godparent must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic. If your chosen godparent cannot attend the celebration, they may designate in writing a proxy to stand in his or her place. A baptized, non-Catholic Christian may also be chosen as a Christian Witness, together with a Catholic godparent. A baptized Catholic that now professes another faith cannot act as a Christian Witness.

Please note that the Diocese of Grand Rapids requires families to be registered in a parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are registered in another parish we must have a letter of delegation from your priest in order to baptize your child. If you are not registered at a parish, please complete a parish registration form and return it to the Parish Office.

If you would like something blessed for your child, please bring the item to the celebration and place it on the table provided. Fr. Peter will bless all items during the celebration. You may want to keep the item in the box for easy identification after the celebration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [MMason@stmmagdalen.org](mailto:MMason@stmmagdalen.org) or the Parish Office.

Blessings to you,

Michelle Mason  
Administrative Assistant

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