

Dear Parents,

Thank you for inquiring about infant baptism at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church. The Diocese of Phoenix requires that parents attend a Parish Preparation Program. I am writing to you to familiarize you with our Parish program prior to the date of your child's baptism. The following applies to parents who are requesting baptism for a child up to the age of seven.

Parents requesting infant baptism at St. Bernard's are expected to be registered and active (i.e., attending Sunday Mass) members of the Parish. If you are not registered, you will need to do so at least 3 months prior to scheduling baptism. Registration forms are available at the Parish Office. If you are a member of another Catholic Parish and would like your child baptized at St. Bernard's, it will be at the direction of the Pastor. If granted, you will need to obtain a letter of permission from your Pastor.

Before an infant can be baptized in the Catholic Church there must be present the well founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. This hope is usually based on whether the Catholic parent is practicing his/her religion. Children learn best by example, so the faith practice of the parent is essential to a child's spiritual growth.

During the Baptism Preparation Program, Parish membership, active participation in the liturgy, the meaning of baptism for a disciple of Jesus and the actual baptism ceremony for your child will be discussed. This Baptism Packet contains information pertaining to baptism, godparent documentation, dates and locations of Baptism Preparation Classes and an information form. This form must be completed in its entirety and brought to the Baptism Prep Class along with a form from the godparent's pastor giving them permission to be a sponsor for baptism. Dates of baptism are subject to change; therefore, please verify your baptism date with the Parish Office.

Again thank you for choosing baptism at St. Bernard of Clairvaux; we look forward to welcoming your new child into the Catholic Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Michael Straley

Pastor

## What do we need to do to have our baby baptized?

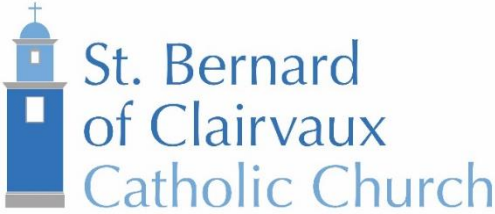
1. **Registration for Baptism (see registration link)**
2. **Download Baptism Information Packet:** You can find a link for the packet under the Registration for Baptism link. Please read thoroughly.
3. **Register for Baptism Class:** Please call the Parish Office at 480-661-9843 or e-mail Nancy Boettcher at [nboettcher@stboc.org](mailto:nboettcher@stboc.org) to register for the class date you wish to attend – class dates are in the **Baptism Information Packet**. Classes may be taken at another parish, but a certificate of completion is necessary for paperwork.
4. **Reserve a Baptismal Date:** As soon as you have completed your registration for Baptism and notify Nancy of the class that you would like to attend, you may reserve a baptismal date. Baptismal dates are also in packet.

## Why do the parents have to attend a preparation class and Faith Formation?

Before the celebration of baptism, the Church expects parents and sponsors to be formed in the meaning of the Sacrament as well as its responsibilities (Canon 851). The role of the sponsor (Godparent) is, “together with the parent and infant at baptism, and... help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it” (Canon 872). One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex (Canon 873). Sponsors must: be sixteen (16) years of age, “be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken” and “not be the father or mother of the child being baptized” (Canon 874). Sponsors must be Catholic: “a baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor” (Canon 874.2).

## Why does the Church baptize infants?

It has always been the practice of the Church to baptize infants. From the earliest days, when an adult was baptized so was everyone else in that person's household (see Acts 10). Along with the growth of Catholicism in the Fourth and Fifth centuries came a decrease in the number of adult baptisms and infancy became the primary time for baptism. After the Second Vatican Council the adult Catechumenate (or RCIA) was restored, but in keeping with the long-standing tradition of the Church, infant baptism is still normative.



10755 North 124th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
Phone: 480.661.9843
Fax: 480.614.8092
E-mail: church@stboc.org
Website: www.stboc.org

Godparent Sponsor Eligibility Form

Code of Canon Law #874 "To be permitted to take on the role of sponsor, a person must be a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist, who leads a life of faith in keeping with the role to be undertaken, and not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed."

Directions: Please take this form to your parish Church and have it signed. Alternatively, your parish may provide its own form, bearing signature and seal, stating that you are eligible and prepared to be a Godparent/Sponsor.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_
Name of Godparent Name of home parish
Catholic Church in \_\_\_\_\_. I have been asked to be a Godparent/Sponsor for
Name of town
\_\_\_\_\_ as she/he receives the Sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation.
Name of Child

I understand that as a Godparent/Sponsor I am to live a life in harmony with the nature of this responsibility. I understand that this is a lifetime commitment to be a faithful witness of Catholic life to the individual I am called to serve. In accepting this responsibility, I affirm that: (Please initial each one that APPLIES)

- 1. I am a Roman Catholic and have received the three Sacraments of Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I am at least 16 years of age. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by receiving him in Holy Communion. \_\_\_\_\_
4. If married, I am married according to the laws of the Catholic Church. \_\_\_\_\_
5. If single, I am not cohabiting (living with someone of the opposite sex with whom I am not married). \_\_\_\_\_
6. I believe what the Catholic Church professes and teaches, and I make an effort to incorporate these teachings in my daily life. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I am aware that I am assuming responsibility to be a good role model for the person I am sponsoring by my life of prayer and by my Christian example. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent/Sponsor Signature Date
\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish Representative Signature Date

Parish Seal

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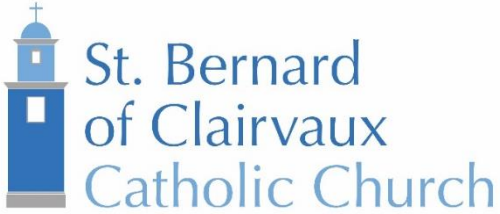
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Parish Representative Signature Date



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## **Dress Code for Baptism for Parents and Godparents**

*Please read the following information carefully and note that this information applies to **BOTH Parents & Godparents** for the Baptism Rite (Ceremony)*

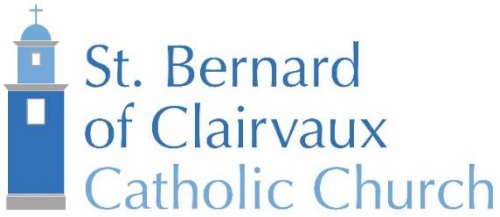
**Men** should be in a collared shirt (either dress shirt or polo is fine), dress pants and dress shoes.

**Women** shoulders and back must be covered, no strapless or sleeveless dresses, nothing low cut or revealing (no visible cleavage), Dresses **MUST** be below the knee (**NO mini-skirts**). Please consider this prior to purchasing any dresses. Although jackets and shawls *are* allowed please note that the item chosen for coverage **MUST NOT** be a material that is sheer or translucent. Women can wear dress pants with a dress top but the same rules apply to dress top: no strapless or sleeveless, nothing low cut or revealing (no visible cleavage)

The **following is NOT ALLOWED to be worn** by men or women: **tennis shoes, flip flops, sandals that do not have a back strap, pants that are too low at waist or revealing any type of undergarment, denim or jeans, t-shirts of any kind, shorts, tank tops, spaghetti straps or strapless tops, any shirt that is cut too low or reveals cleavage.**

**Tattoos** should be covered to the best of your ability. **Piercings** outside of ears (i.e. tongue, eyebrow, lip) should not be visible for Mass.

Thank you for helping us to make this an environment in which we show our love and respect to Our Lord not only in our hearts but with our choice of dress.



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## 2021 Schedule of Baptism Dates and Classes

**(Subject to Change)**

**Please contact the parish office, (480) 661-9843, to register for any of the listed classes. Classes are from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Room 103 in the Parish Center. Please park in the South Parking Lot. Godparents are welcomed!**

### **Baptism Class Dates**

August 7, 2021 with Alice Bleignier  
September 4, 2021 with Alice Bleignier  
October 2, 2021 with Alice Bleignier  
November 6, 2021 with Alice Bleignier  
December 4, 2021 with Alice Bleignier

### **Baptism Ceremony Dates**

August 21, 2021 with Father Simon O  
September 18, 2021 with Father Simon O  
October 16, 2021 with Father Simon O  
November 20, 2021 with TBD  
December 18, 2021 with TBD

### **Baptism Time**

11:00 AM

**Parents may attend class any month prior to the planned Baptism. Baptisms take place every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month (or 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – depending on the holiday)**