



St. Therese
OF LISIEUX

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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARENTS!

It is such a privilege to be with the Lord, a co-creator in bringing new life into the world. More wonderful still, through baptism, your infant will become a child of God and will begin a new life also in the Catholic community. To prepare for this joyous moment in your child's life, it is important that you examine your own faith life.

Just as a baby is born with your features and will pick up your mannerisms, so too will your child grow up with your faith. That is why when you approach the priest or deacon regarding your infant's baptism, he will encourage you to live your faith to the fullest. As a parent, you will be the primary educator of your child's faith. Baptism is only the first stage of your child's initiation into the believing community. With your guidance and demonstration of faith, along with help from the parish religious formation program, your child will continue their journey and initiation into the Catholic community in the coming years.

POLICY FOR BAPTISM CLASS

It is the policy of St. Therese that all first time parents, those families new to the parish, and families who have not had a child baptized in the last three years, attend a Baptism class prior to having a child baptized. Baptism classes are scheduled as needed and the parish office can assist you in determining the next available class

To have your baby baptized here at St. Therese of Lisieux, you must be a registered parishioner at our parish or provide proof of registration from another parish. You should also consider your level of commitment to your faith as a Roman Catholic. Attendance at a baptism class is necessary but practicing your faith is even more important. As you raise your child, demonstrate your faith to him/her by regular attendance at Mass; participating in the parish with your time, talent & treasure; and teaching your child the faith at home.

RAISING YOUR CHILD IN THE FAITH IS REQUIRED

Occasionally, baptism may be postponed, but not denied. You see, the Code of Canon Law of the Church requires that, for a baby to be baptized licitly (legally), the minister of the sacrament must verify that this child will be raised Catholic.

Unfortunately, today many of our parents are not as actively involved in their faith as desired, yet there is some belief in God and a desire that their child have a spiritual life. For this we are glad. Therefore, we commit ourselves to assist these parents in their primary duty and privilege to be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. We have many opportunities and resources to become involved in parish life and these sources will assist you in raising your child in our faith.

HOW IS FAITH SHOWN?

At St. Therese the persons requesting baptism for the child will be asked to state specifically in what way the Catholic faith is being practiced by them. For instance, do they attend Mass regularly, belong to any parish ministries, such as assisting as a catechist or aide in the religious education program, support the parish by regular contribution in the envelopes or volunteer time to support the needs and programs of the parish? Some may find that they are doing none of these things and yet they ask to have a baby baptized. We encourage you to find ways to share the gifts that God has given each of you with your parish community.

CHOOSING GODPARENTS

“Godparent” is not an honorary title and is a decision not to be taken lightly. Too often parents want to honor a special friend, repay a favor, or encourage a non-relative to have a closer relationship with their child. While all of these motives are well intentioned, they are not ideal. Godparents are, with you, a child’s guide on the Christian Life journey. They will help shape your little one’s faith by sharing their own in word and deed. Therefore, you will want to choose people whose own baptismal commitment is firm and whose love for God and neighbor is generous.

When choosing Godparents for your child, church law requires that one of the Godparents must be a practicing Catholic (actually, only one Godparent is required). A non-Catholic who has been baptized can be invited to participate as a Christian Witness. Both Godparents should be at least 16 years of age and fully initiated (having received Confirmation and Eucharist) into the church. According to Canon Law, “only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed”. Therefore, you cannot have two Godmothers or two Godfathers.

Godparents are also invited (but not required) to attend the baptism class with the parents.

YOUR CHILD’S FAITH FORMATION

As parents, you are the primary educator of your child in matters of faith and we are happy you have chosen us to nurture and assist you in fulfilling this awesome responsibility. It is important that parents create an environment which can foster and grow Christian values and attitudes.

As your child grows he/she needs to experience faith through the family. Faithful participation at weekly liturgy, frequent celebration of the Sacraments (or observance of the family doing so), support and interest in parish community life and activities help to fully develop the young Catholic.

During Mass children 3 years—11 years are invited to share the Liturgy of the Word at their age level in the Social Hall, returning to their seats after the homily by the priest or deacon.

As the children reach school age, formation classes are available for students in grades 1-9. During these crucial years of faith formation children will prepare and complete their Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and Confirmation), which they began at Baptism.

To assist you as your child’s primary teacher, many adult faith formation opportunities are available here at the parish for parents to learn more about their faith. We have additional information on the website at stol.church which hopefully will answer any questions you may have in this regard.

A PARENT’S PRAYER

“Our loving God, we cannot yet teach our tiny child to pray. But help us, as mother and father, to treat our baby and each other in such a way that when our child learns to talk with You, there will be an awareness that You are kind, good, loving, just and forgiving.” Amen

SCHEDULING A DATE FOR BAPTISM

In order to schedule your child’s baptism, call the parish office and schedule a date. Baptisms are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 1:00 pm. The number of children baptized at one time is limited, so you must call and reserve a particular date. At that time, some information that is needed for your child’s baptismal record will be requested. You may also choose to have your child baptized during one of the weekend Masses. Please request this when you are meeting with our staff.



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BAPTISM REGISTER

**RETURN THIS FORM TO PARISH OFFICE, FAX (586-254-5463),
OR EMAIL FRONTDESK@STOL.CHURCH**

_____	_____	_____
Baptism Date Scheduled	Parishioner Env. #	Registration date (today's date)

Name of Child _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____ Childs Sex (Male/Female) _____
(City or township)

Residence _____
(Street)

(City or Twp) (Zip) (Phone)

Father's Name _____
(First and Last)

Mother's Name _____
(First Maiden and Last)

Religion of Father _____ Religion of Mother _____

Married by Catholic Priest? (Yes or No) _____ Location _____

Godfather /Christian Witness _____

Godmother /Christian Witness _____

***At least one Godparent must be Catholic, at least 16 years old, and received the Sacraments of Baptism, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation, and a practicing Catholic.**

_____	_____	_____
Baptism Completed	Priest/Deacon To be filled out by Parish Office	Recorded in Baptismal Registry



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BAPTISM SPONSOR INFORMATION

*RETURN THIS FORM TO PARISH OFFICE, FAX (586-254-5463),
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Godparent/Witness Information (use a form for each Godparent/Witness)

Candidate for Baptism: _____

Parent's of Candidate: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Age _____

Parish: _____

Parish Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Godparent/Witness Celebration of Sacraments

____ Baptism
Parish Name: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

____ Eucharist
Parish Name: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

____ Confirmation
Parish Name: _____

City/State/Zip: _____



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