



ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

100 Bainbridge Ave, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 3Y1

IMPORTANT CONTENT PLEASE READ ALL PAGES INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE

Dear friends in Christ,

Congratulations on the birth of your child! We are encouraged that you are now seeking baptism for your child and we, your parish community, wish to share in the joy of this celebration with you.

The baptism of your child is a very important opportunity for you, the parents, to reaffirm your Catholic faith. By asking for baptism, you are stating and affirming that you will actively participate in the spiritual life and Catholic faith development of your child.

To help you to be more fully aware of the great significance and importance of this joyful sacrament, the pastoral team here at Saint Peter's parish is more than happy to help you and your child in his/her initiation into this Catholic community and the Catholic Church as a whole.

Please read the following material **CAREFULLY**, as it contains vital information to help you prepare as best as possible to celebrate the baptism of your child.

We pray for God's richest and choicest blessings for you and your family.

Peace and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Michael Corcione, ofm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Michael Corcione, ofm
Pastor

PLEASE SEE REVERSE ...

FOR THE PARENTS:

As you prepare for the sacrament of baptism for your child, you are presented with a unique opportunity to reaffirm your own Christian faith. On the strength of your own faith, you are asking the rest of the Church to welcome your child as a new member of this faith community. In doing so, you are making a promise to God, the Catholic Church and your child that you will do your very best to help develop the spiritual potential of your child and guide him/her to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus and His Church.

Sometimes, Catholic parents, who do not participate in the regular liturgical life of the Church, insist the sacraments are their “right”. This may be true. But as with all things, with those “rights” come certain duties and responsibilities. Infant baptism is a “privilege” for Catholic parents who not only love Jesus above all things but are also committed to living out that faith through, with and in the Church at large.

Baptism is the door and the key to the rest of the sacraments. As such, baptism is also rite of initiation into our faith community and the beginning of a life-long commitment - - not just a one day celebration. In the long run, it is the parents’ sole responsibility to ensure that their child is given every opportunity to become a faithful follower of Jesus within their faith community. In short, if the strength and presence of God’s love is not nourished in the home, by the parents AND within the Church community, the significance of baptism is lost and the sacrament becomes just another “social event” with no real meaning.

Therefore, before we proceed with baptism, the Catholic community of St. Peter’s Parish requires some indication that you will take seriously the responsibilities found in infant baptism. We need assurance that the spiritual life that God gives to your child at baptism will be fully nourished and cared for, by you and this faith community of St. Peter’s Parish.



PRACTICAL PREPERATION STEPS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*You must be a "practicing" member of our parish in order to have your child baptized here at St. Peter's. Should you not belong to our parish community, or live out of the **parish boundaries, we require a letter of permission from your local church giving consent to have your child baptized at our parish. **North of Rutherford Road, East of the Humber River/Kipling Avenue, South of Steeles Avenue, West of Highway 50*

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY TO AVOID ANY DELAY IN REGISTRATION

Step 1- Initial contact and Registration

The first step in preparing for your child's baptism is to fill out the registration form found on our website www.stpeterswoodbridge.com. You are required to complete the form **IN FULL** and submit to office via email. We understand the desire to organize the arrangements surrounding your child's Baptism, however it becomes difficult to provide a date for Baptism when the necessary supporting documents have not been submitted together with your registration form.

WE ASK THAT YOU SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION FORM WHEN YOU HAVE ALL OF THE REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IN YOUR POSSESSION.

Once received, the parish office will review your submission and will contact you with the final booking of your child's Baptism.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THE FORMS TO THE PARISH OFFICE.
REGISTRATION IS THROUGH EMAIL ONLY!
(office@stpeterswoodbridge.com)**

Step 2- Parents' Status

Couples married in the Catholic church will need to provide us with the following:

1. Name of the church and exact date their marriage to place (*to be noted on registration form where indicated*). A copy of each parent's **CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE MUST ACCOMPANY THE REGISTRATION FORM to show proof of having received this important Sacrament.** You may provide us with a copy of the Confirmation certificate you may have in your possession or provide us with an **UPDATED BAPTISMAL** certificate. An updated baptismal certificate can only be obtained from the church where the individual was baptized. This version will also contain the details of other sacraments received: confirmation and/or marriage (*it will not matter if Sacraments were received at different parishes*). All parishes will communicate with the church of Baptism in order to update Sacramental information in their registry.
PLEASE NOTE: COUPLES MARRIED AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH ARE STILL REQUIRED TO PROVIDE US WITH A COPY OF THEIR CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE.

Couples NOT MARRIED in the Catholic church will need to provide us with the following:

An UPDATED BAPTISMAL certificate (for each parent) must accompany the registration form when submitting to the parish office. An UPDATED BAPTISMAL certificate can only be obtained from the church where the parent's Baptism took place.

PLEASE NOTE: The updated baptismal certificate contains the dates and places where the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation (and Marriage) took place; all in one certificate. It does not matter if you received your Sacraments at other parishes. All sacramental information is communicated to your church of Baptism. **When requesting your certificate, please ensure to ask for an UPDATED Baptismal certificate.**

Once receiving your updated baptismal certificate, please ensure that the Confirmation information is included. In the event that you find information to be incomplete, you will need to contact the church where the specific Sacrament was received and provide the missing information. If any/all Sacraments took place overseas, we can make an exception and accept copies of certificates you may have in your possession.

Churches within the United States are able to email an updated baptismal certificate to you.

Step 3- Choosing the Godparents

The role of the godparents is **to help the parents raise their child in the Catholic faith. The godparents help the child live out their faith, giving good example by what they say and do.** As you begin to prepare for your child's baptism, you are invited to reflect on the role and the selection of the godparents. Prior to inviting a relative or friend to assume the role of the godparents for your child, it is important that you understand what our church teaches with regards to the godparents. The following is the criteria to be followed when choosing a godparent:

- Godparents must be Catholics in good standing, enthusiastically living their faith and active participants in the life of the church. **Godparents represent the Church** (not family) as they promise, on the behalf of the Church at large, **to help the parents in raising the child in our Catholic faith.**
- You **MUST** have **at least** one godparent. If you chose to have two godparents, they **MUST** be one male and one female (you **CANNOT** have TWO godfathers or TWO godmothers – **NO EXCEPTIONS**).
- Godparents are to be over the age of 16 at the time of the baptism.
- Godparents may be single or married). If they are married, they must have been married in the Catholic Church.
You will be asked to provide the parish office with the name of the Church and the date their wedding took place (day, month, year). Couples who **HAVE NOT BEEN MARRIED** in the Catholic Church **WILL NOT BE ABLE** to assume the role of godparents. If the godparent is divorced, they **must not be remarried.**
- A copy of an UPDATED Baptismal certificate **will be required** in order to confirm they are Catholic in good standing.

... IF YOUR GODPARENT IS SINGLE	...IF YOUR GODPARENT IS MARRIED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a minimum of 16 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a minimum of 16 years of age.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may have a minimum of 1 or a maximum of 2 Godparents. If you choose to have 2 Godparents, it must consist of 1 male and 1 female (parties may be married or single). You will not be permitted to have 2 male or 2 female Godparents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may have a minimum of 1 or a maximum of 2 Godparents. If you choose to have 2 Godparents, it must consist of 1 male and 1 female (parties may be married or single). You will not be permitted to have 2 male or 2 female Godparents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never been married. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage must have taken place in a Catholic Church. Any marriages taken place civilly (not performed in a Catholic Church) do not meet the criteria as valid Godparent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices their faith on a regular basis attending Mass on Sundays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices their faith on a regular basis attending Mass on Sundays.
<p>REQUIREMENT: an UPDATED Baptismal Certificate received from the church where the individual was Baptized. <i>Please note:</i> following Baptism, regardless of where they received their remaining Sacraments; all details are forwarded to the church of Baptism for updating archives. If any/all Sacraments took place overseas, we can make an exception and accept copies of certificates you may have in your possession. Churches within the United States are able to email an updated baptismal certificate to you.</p>	<p>REQUIREMENT: ** a copy of their Confirmation Certificate will be required when submitting your child's registration forms. <i>We will also require the name of the Church and the date their marriage took place.</i> (couples married in the Catholic Church, must still provide us with a copy of their Confirmation certificate. If they cannot locate a copy of their Confirmation certificate, they can request same from the church where the Sacrament was received. If any/all Sacraments took place overseas, we can make an exception and accept copies of certificates you may have in your possession. Churches within the United States are able to email an updated baptismal certificate to you.</p> <p>** ALSO APPLIES TO COUPLES MARRIED AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH.</p>

PLEASE DO NOT PROVIDE THE PARISH OFFICE WITH A COPY OF THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE YOU MAY HAVE AT HOME. AN UPDATED BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHURCH WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL WAS BAPTIZED. THIS VERSION WILL ALSO CONTAIN THE DETAILS OF OTHER SACRAMENTS RECEIVED: CONFIRMATION and/or MARRIAGE.

If you have any questions or doubts about selecting the godparents, please do not hesitate to ask the priests/office BEFORE you ask the godparents. This may save you some trouble and help to avoid a possibly “embarrassing” situation.

Step 4– Office Will Contact You

After you have read this package, completed the registration form and submitted form with the required documents, the parish office will contact you to finalize your application and schedule a Baptismal date.

Step 5– Attend the baptism instruction class

As the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a cancellation of all Baptism preparation classes, a video has been provided for both parents and godparents to view online (www.stpeterswoodbridge.com) thereby receiving the same information that would have been given at the in-person class. The video can be found on our website www.stpeterswoodbridge.com (by scrolling toward the bottom of the homepage and clicking on the subheading of SERVICES. Click on Sacramental Preparation followed by the video titled Baptism Preparation when ready to view). We ask both parents and godparents take time to view this video.

Step 6– Attend the Baptism ceremony

Baptisms here at Saint Peter’s parish take place twice a month on Sundays.

St. Peter’s parish is currently working at 30% seating capacity (approximately 220 people inside the church) and will permit a **maximum of 10 babies to be baptized at the same service**. Each family will have the opportunity to invite family / friends however, the number of individuals per family **CANNOT EXCEED MORE THAN 20 IN TOTAL** (*including parents, godparent(s) and child to be baptized*) on this special day. We ask that in the interest of health and safety, please do not exceed this number when inviting family/friends. Upon your arrival at church, you will have a specific pew(s) assigned attached with your family’s name on it.

Since photography can be distracting during the ceremony, we ask that picture taking and videos be done ONLY during the actual baptism itself around the baptismal font. At this time, family and friends are invited to stand around the font and watch your child be baptized. This is when they may take pictures. **(MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE MANDATORY UPON ENTERING CHURCH AND THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY).**

A Baptism offertory envelope would normally have been given on the evening of the preparation class. Since these classes are not taking place at this time, we ask that you arrange TO HAVE YOUR CHILD’S BAPTISM OFFERTORY ENVELOPE PICKED UP AT THE PARISH OFFICE BEFORE THE BAPTISM DATE).

If you have any questions or problems concerning your child’s baptism or anything contained in this package, please do not hesitate to contact us at the parish office.

