

# ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

100 Bainbridge Ave, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 3Y1

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## IMPORTANT CONTENT PLEASE READ ALL PAGES INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE

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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](http://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 (office@stpeterswoodbridge.com)**

### **Step 2- Parents' Information**

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

Check box indicating you are married in the Catholic Church and provide date and name of church where marriage took place. *(to be noted on registration form where indicated).*

#### **Couples NOT married in the Catholic church will need to provide us with the following:**

Check box indicating you are not married in the Catholic church. *(to be noted on registration form where indicated).*

### **Individual Information – separate section for each parent to be completed**

#### **Parent baptized or not baptized at St. Peter's Church: (each parent will have their own section to complete.**

If parent was baptized at St. Peter's church, an updated baptismal certificate **IS NOT REQUIRED to be provided** when submitting the registration form. Please ensure to check the box indicating the baptism took place at St. Peter's church.

If parent was **not baptized at St. Peter's church**, an updated baptismal certificate **IS REQUIRED to be provided** when submitting the registration form. Please ensure to check the box indicating the baptism took place at St. Peter's church. **THIS ALSO APPLIES IF YOU WERE MARRIED AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH (BUT NOT BAPTIZED HERE).**

### 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. Individuals **NOT MARRIED** in the Catholic church do not fulfill the criteria to act as a Godparent. Godparent cannot be divorced and remarried.
- Godparents must have been fully initiated in the Catholic church (*received Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and Marriage (if applicable)*).
- The child's mother or father cannot be a Godparent.

... IF YOUR GODPARENT IS SINGLE	...IF YOUR GODPARENT IS MARRIED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a minimum of 16 years of age.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a minimum of 16 years of age.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have a minimum of 1 or a maximum of 2 Godparents. If you choose to have 2 Godparents, <b>it must consist of 1 male and 1 female</b> (parties may be married or single). You will not be permitted to have 2 male or 2 female Godparents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may have a minimum of 1 or a maximum of 2 Godparents. If you choose to have 2 Godparents, <b>it must consist of 1 male and 1 female</b> (parties may be married or single). You will not be permitted to have 2 male or 2 female Godparents.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never been married.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage must have taken place in a Catholic Church. <b>Any marriages taken place civilly (not performed in a Catholic Church) do not meet the criteria as valid Godparent.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices their faith on a regular basis attending Mass on Sundays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices their faith on a regular basis attending Mass on Sundays.</li> </ul>
<p><b>REQUIREMENT:</b> 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><b>REQUIREMENT:</b> 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><b>** ALSO APPLIES TO COUPLES MARRIED AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH. UPDATED BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES MUST BE RESUBMITTED AS CERTIFICATE WILL NOW INCLUDE THE PARTICULARS OF THE MARRIAGE IN ADDITION TO BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION.</b></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](http://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](http://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.

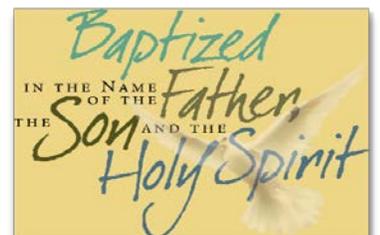
#### **Step 6– Attend the Baptism ceremony**

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.