

## Date and Time

Baptisms take place in English on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and in Spanish on the second, third, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of the month at 10:00 a.m. It is necessary to schedule your participation with the parish office. Other times may be available by private arrangement with the clergy of the parish, but not simply because of a desire for a private Baptism. As a general rule, infant baptisms do not take place during Mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

## Cost

There is no cost for Baptisms. However, it is customary to give the priest an offering. This is at your discretion.

## Documents

We ask that you please provide a copy of the child's birth certificate to verify that we record the child's full legal name and the name of their parents. This will assist your child in the future when they need to obtain their sacramental records for confirmation, marriage, etc.

### Documents

- \_\_\_ Birth certificate of child
- \_\_\_ Parents attend Baptismal preparation
- \_\_\_ Godparents attend Baptismal preparation
- \_\_\_ Baptismal certificates of godparents
- \_\_\_ Letter of good standing for godparents (if from another parish)
- \_\_\_ Reservation made with parish office

### Godparents

- Godfather, godmother, or both
- 16 years old
- Baptized, Confirmed, first Holy Communion
- Married in the Church (if married)
- Practicing their faith / attending Sunday Mass
- Preparation classes
- Permission of pastor if not from St. John's

# St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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*109 West Monroe Street  
Goshen, Indiana 46815  
574.533.3385*



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## Guidelines for the Sacrament of Baptism

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## General Guidelines

St. John the Evangelist Parish rejoices with you for God's gift of new life to your family! We are excited to welcome your child into the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. In Baptism, original sin is cleansed and the child becomes a son or daughter of God as a member of the Church.

Baptism is not a private sacrament; it takes place within the context of the Church into which your child is to be initiated. In this way, your request for your child to be Baptized is an opportunity to consider your own faith and the way in which you will pass that faith on to your child. If you are not currently practicing your Catholic faith, your child's baptism is an opportunity to return to the practice of the faith in order to be a witness to the faith that you desire him or her to receive through Baptism.

### Baptismal formation program

Parents desiring to have a child baptized must have participated in the parish's baptismal preparation program within the past two years. For the second or further children, parents who regularly participate in adult faith formation programs are exempted from this requirement. Godparents must also have attended the baptismal formation program within the past two years. They may similarly be exempted if they have attended the program within the past 10 years and regularly participate in adult faith formation at St. John's. These exemptions are given at the discretion of the parish clergy.

Parents are encouraged to attend baptismal formation before their child is born so that he or she can be baptized within the first weeks of his or her life, as earnestly desired by the Church.

In order to schedule your baptismal formation, please contact the Baptismal formation coordinators, **Steve and Susan Schneider at .**

## Child

Children under the age of seven are baptized as infants. Children over the age of seven will complete preparation for Confirmation and First Holy Communion and will receive all three sacraments of initiation together (usually at the Easter Vigil).

### Godparents

The godparents of the child fulfill an important role in fostering the Catholic faith of the child. They should be carefully chosen by the parents not only because of their relationship to the parents, but because of their ability to be a witness to the Catholic faith to the young person being initiated into the Catholic church. Godparents must be baptized, practicing Catholics who regularly attend Mass and give a coherent witness of the Gospel in their public life (i.e. not married outside the Church or living with a partner outside of marriage, etc.). They must also be at least 16 years old and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Godparents must provide a recently-issued copy of their Baptismal certificate (obtained from the church at which they were baptized). Alternatively, they may present a certificate of confirmation and of marriage (if married).

There must be at least one godparent. There may be up to two (one man and one woman). A baptized person who is not Catholic may participate with a Catholic godparent as a witness of the sacrament. In this case, the non-Catholic baptized person is not a godparent but a witness. A proxy may stand in for a godparent. A proxy must meet the same requirements as godparents. Christian witnesses must also meet the same requirements of a coherent public life.

Godparents from other parishes must provide a letter from the parish they attend stating that they are Catholics in good standing, as well as a certificate of completion of the parish's baptismal preparation program.