



St. Martin of Tours Church  
37 Union Ave.  
Amityville, NY 11701

## Planning a Baptism

- Infant Baptism is for those six years old and under. Eucharist and Confirmation are received later.

## Parents and Godparents

- According to Canon 851 of the Roman Church: *the parents of an infant who is to be baptized, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsor are to be properly instructed in the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations which are attached to it; personally or through others the pastor is to see to it that the parents are properly formed.*

## Requirements

- There must be a founded hope that the child will be raised to *practice and live* the Catholic faith.
- At least one parent must consent to the baptism.
- If the baptism is against the parents' wish the baptism is valid, but illicit.
- Parents ought to baptize their child as soon as possible after the birth.
- An infant in danger of death is to be baptized without any delay.

## Baptismal Name

- In the case of an unwed mother and (unknown) father, the information found on the birth certificate is used. Changes can be made in the register at a later date.

## Baptism Times

- Baptisms are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM
- **Visiting Clergy** - If you know a priest or deacon who would like to perform your baptism, he is most welcome. Please remind him to contact the parish office.
- **Offerings** - There is a free-will offering envelope provided that you are asked to return to the parish.

## Sponsors

- There may be one or two sponsors, but one is necessary.
- One sponsor must be male, and the other female.
- Catholic sponsor must provide a “Sponsor Certificate” from the parish in which they are currently registered, as well as proof of Sacraments (baptism, communion, and confirmation).
- When there is one sponsor, he or she must be a Catholic who meets all requirements.
- Requirements for the Catholic sponsor:
  - At least 16 years old
  - Baptized and confirmed
  - Living an upright Catholic life
  - If married, it must be a valid Catholic marriage
  - No penalties (e.g., left the Church). A Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor, and cannot be a “Christian witness” if they join another Christian communion.
  - Cannot be either parent.
- A baptized non-Catholic must accompany a Catholic sponsor:
  - They are a “Christian witness” and not a “sponsor”
  - The other sponsor with a Catholic sponsor must be baptized. Jewish or Muslim or any other non-baptized are not permitted.
  - The baptized non-Catholic must not be someone who has left the Church.
- There may be a proxy for the godparent.
- Names of sponsors and godparents may not be changed later.

## Adoption

- If the adoption has not yet been finalized, permission for the baptism is obtained by the Office of the Chancellor which will ensure that the child has not already been baptized and there is the assurance that the child will be raised Catholic should the adoption not go through.
- If the adoption has already been finalized permission must be given by the Office of the Chancellor.

## Photography

- Photographers and videographers are welcome to record the baptism. Both must speak to the celebrant before the ceremony begins.
- Equipment must not obscure the view of the congregation or disrupt the baptism in any way.