



St Edward the Confessor Church

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Dear Parishioner,

Your parish family joins you in the GREAT JOY of your new baby. We are happy to participate in the celebration and wonder of new life with you in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Because parents must make a faith commitment on behalf of their children, who are too young to speak for themselves, this sacrament carries a very serious obligation on the part of parents to pass on their own faith to their children. Even though it may be years away, it is not too early to be thinking about formal Catholic education in a Catholic school or PSR (Parish School of Religion) program. A commitment on the part of those chosen as godparents to help and support the parents in this endeavor is also essential.

For this reason parents who make this commitment are expected to be practicing Catholics themselves. This means at least that they attend church regularly.

THE PROCESS

Please complete the attached *application form, parent testimonial form, and godparents' testimonial forms*, and return them to the Parish Center. We also ask parents to complete a parish census form for parish registration so that the needs of any future pastoral care required by the family can be given attention. Additionally, if you live outside of St. Edward parish boundaries, you must obtain a letter of permission from your territorial parish. In order to give the priest/deacon adequate time for preparation, the cutoff date for baptism is the first of each month. Applications received after the first of the month are not eligible for preparation for/or baptism in that month even if the baptism is being celebrated by a visiting priest/deacon. (NO EXCEPTIONS).

First time parents (as well as first time godparents) must attend a **BAPTISMAL SEMINAR** in preparation for the celebration of their child's Baptism. Seminars are usually conducted on the third Tuesday of each month. **The Baptismal Application must be turned in to the Parish Center before the date of the seminar in order to be eligible to attend.** The dates and times of the seminars can be found at the end of this letter.

Parents requesting a visiting Priest/Deacon to celebrate the Sacrament must:

- * obtain permission from the Pastor;
- * attend the regularly scheduled seminar (if they are unable to attend the Parish Seminar, then the visiting Priest/Deacon is responsible for this preparation prior to the Baptism);
- * make certain that all forms are completed in full;

The **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of each month, usually at 1:30 PM. The date and time for your child's baptism will be set at the completion of the above requirements. After the date and time is set, we ask that you call the Parish Office the week before your child is scheduled for Baptism to confirm that you will be present as scheduled.

GODPARENTS

It is customary in the Catholic Church that there be one godmother and/or godfather. The godparent(s) must be mature enough to undertake the responsibility associated with the role of supporting the parents in their commitment to rear the child in the Catholic faith. Therefore, the godparent(s) must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), and are actively practicing their faith. A Baptismal Testimonial Form for each Catholic sponsor (godparent) is enclosed. Please have them complete and sign the forms which **must be returned with the Baptismal Application**. First time godparents must attend a Baptismal Seminar prior to serving in this role.

Only one godparent is required. A non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic godparent. This non-Catholic must be at least 16 years of age and baptized.

Questions concerning godparents and/or Christian witnesses should be discussed with the priest or deacon at the seminar.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may make a donation to the church if you so desire, but your ability to offer a stipend or gift will not prevent your child from being baptized. The usual stipend is approximately \$20 to \$30.

At the baptismal seminar, the priest or deacon will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this sacrament or any other church matters.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the occasion of your baby's birth. Remember that my staff and I are always here to help you grow in your faith and to pass that faith on to your children. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
the source of all life,

Rev. Gerald L. Seiler, Jr.
Pastor

Please answer yes or no to the following:

FATHER

MOTHER

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING SACRAMENTS?

*BAPTISM

*HOLY EUCHARIST

*CONFIRMATION

DO YOU ATTEND MASS WEEKLY?

DO YOU FREQUENT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION?

WITNESS/GODFATHER'S NAME _____

GODPARENT TESTIMONIAL ATTACHED

Yes

No

IF NOT CATHOLIC, WHAT RELIGION? _____

WITNESS/GODMOTHER'S NAME _____

GODPARENT TESTIMONIAL ATTACHED

Yes

No

IF NOT CATHOLIC, WHAT RELIGION? _____

WILL EITHER WITNESS/GODPARENT BE REPRESENTED BY PROXY? _____

NAME OF PROXY? _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED A BAPTISMAL SEMINAR? Yes

No

IF YES, WHEN? _____ WHERE? _____

FOR PARISH USE ONLY: (Please initial)

updated 9/30/14

Baptismal Seminar Attended: _____

Date and Time of Baptism: _____

Officiating Priest or Deacon: _____

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Parental Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Proposed Date of Baptism _____

Statement of Catholic Parent(s)

“It is my sincere hope and intention to raise my child in the Catholic faith and to do all in my power to assure through my own efforts that my child practices and grows in the Catholic faith.”

By signing below, the Catholic parent(s) solemnly swear that the statement above is a true and correct indication of their intentions.

(Must be signed by at least one Catholic parent.)

Father's Signature: _____

Father's Name Printed: _____

Mother's Signature: _____

Mother's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Pastor or Delegate (In Parish where Baptism is to be Celebrated)

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

Name of Child to be Baptized: _____

Previous Baptismal Seminar Attended: _____

Criteria to Serve as Godparent for Baptism

1. The Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church who has been Confirmed and regularly practices his/her Catholic faith;
2. The Godparent must be at least sixteen years of age;
3. If married, the Godparent must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Persons may not be cohabiting, or living together without marriage.
4. If not previously attended, the Godparent will attend a Baptismal Seminar in preparation for this Baptism.

Statement of Godparent

“I meet the above stated criteria to serve as a Godparent, and I will do all in my power to assist the parents of this child to raise their child in the Catholic faith.”

By signing below, the proposed Godparent solemnly swears that he or she has read the above criteria, and that the statement above is a true and correct indication of his/her intentions.

Godparent's Signature: _____

Godparent's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Pastor or Delegate (In Parish where Baptism is to be Celebrated)

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Godparent Testimonial for the Sacrament of Baptism

Date: _____

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Godparent's Signature: _____

Godparent's Name Printed: _____

Signature of Pastor or Delegate (In Parish where Baptism is to be Celebrated)