

# St. Mark Catholic Church

## Baptism Preparation and Expectations



42021 Hwy 621  
Gonzales, LA 70737  
(225) 647-8461 phone  
(225) 647-5125 fax

## **Preparation**

The Sacrament of Baptism, as a rule, is administered at St. Mark Church on the first Sunday of the Month in conjunction with the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

1. **Request for Baptism by expectant parent(s):**

*Contact the parish office at 647-8461, for an application at least three (3) months prior to birth.* The baptism of an infant involves a pledge from adult believers – the infant’s parents – that they wish to share with their child the faith of the Catholic Church.

2. **Blessing of Expectant Parents:**

Twice a year we will advertise and offer a special blessing for expectant parents during Mass.

3. **Preparation Seminar:**

Couples must attend one seminar. These should be attended by parents, godparents and Christian Witnesses. You must notify the parish office of the seminar date you wish to attend.

4. **Celebration of Baptism:**

These dates are specifically scheduled throughout the year. Dates will be provided at the time of application.

Parents who are not in a valid Catholic marriage will be given the opportunity to explore this issue with the priest.

*Parents must attest to their participation and regular attendance at Sunday Mass.*

## **Expectations**

1. Preparations should be completed before the arrival of the child.
2. If you have completed the preparations process within three (3) years prior to the birth of another child, and the contents of the preparation sessions have not significantly changed during that time, you will not be expected to attend the preparations seminar again. If this applies to you, please notify the parish office at the time of the request for baptism.
3. If you are a new member of the parish and you have attended a Baptism session within three years prior to the birth of another child at your previous parish, you must have a letter from your previous parish confirming the completion of the course.
4. At least one parent must be a Catholic, that is practicing the Catholic faith and involved in the parish community as much as possible. If you are not, you are expected to begin doing so as a visible sign of your commitment to the Church and your desire for baptism. Grandparents or any other relative cannot substitute for this requirement unless they have legal custody of the child.
5. If you are not married according to the norms of the Catholic Church, you are expected to consult with the Pastor, who will determine the exact difficulty, and offer pastoral support and options for correcting the situation if possible.

## **Expectations Cont...**

6. Those persons you select to be godparents shall be person,
- other than yourself
  - who are Catholic
  - At least sixteen (16) years of age
  - Confirmed
  - Regularly practice their faith

If the godparent is a St. Mark parishioner, he/she must be regularly practicing in their Catholic faith and must attend the seminar.

If the godparent is a member of another parish, they must provide a letter attesting to their suitability to be godparents from their own pastor, prior to the preparation session.

7. If there is at least one active Catholic godparent, a member of another Christian faith may be a Christian Witness as long as they are practicing their own faith. No baptized, non-confirmed Catholic, nor a Catholic who is not practicing the faith may be a Christian Witness.
8. If you wish to have your child baptized in another parish, you must discuss the reasons with the pastor and receive permission from him to do so. You will still be required to complete the preparation session and honor all expectations as stated in numbers 1 - 6 above.

SCHEDULE OF BAPTISMAL SEMINARS AND BAPTISMS  
2010

**SEMINAR**  
Tuesday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

September 28

November 2

November 30

December 28

**BAPTISM**  
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 2

2011

February 1

March 1

March 29

April 26

May 31

June 28

August 2

August 30

September 27

October 25

November 29

December 27

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 4

October 2

November 6

December 4

January 1

## Q & A

**Q Is there a fee for the Baptismal Seminar?**

*A No, there is no fee. However; if you would like to make a stipend (\$25) payable to St. Mark Catholic Church. Thanks for your generosity.*

**Q I want my best friend to be my child's Godparent but he/she is not Catholic?**

*A They would be considered a Christian Witness and not a Godparent, Christian Witness means baptized in another faith besides Catholic. (In another words, if the person you asked is a Baptized Catholic but not Confirmed in the Catholic Faith, they are not eligible to be a Godparent or Christian Witness.)*

**Q Can I select a divorced sponsors to be a godparent?**

*A Yes, if a divorced person is living a single lifestyle in keeping with the Commandments and fulfilling all the obligations of the Church with regard to the Sacraments, he or she **CAN** be a Godparent. There is no "penalty" for divorce except the prohibition from marriage in the Church until the person's freedom to marry is declared through the annulment process.*

**ST. MARK CHURCH  
BAPTISM INFORMATION SHEET**

Seminar: \_\_\_\_\_  
Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered in Parish: Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Contributing: Yes [ ] No [ ]

**Father**

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Mass Attendance: Weekly [ ] Occasionally [ ]  
Seldom [ ] Never [ ]

**Mother**

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Maiden Last

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Mass Attendance: Weekly [ ] Occasionally [ ]  
Seldom [ ] Never [ ]

Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church City State

Married By: Priest [ ] Justice of the Peace [ ]  
Minister [ ] Judge [ ]

Parent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State

Home Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Child**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

## Godfather

Godfather' Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Mass Attendance: Weekly [ ] Occasionally [ ]  
Seldom [ ] Never [ ]

Godfather's Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church City State

Godfather was Married By: Priest [ ] Justice of the Peace [ ]  
Minister [ ] Judge [ ]

## Godmother

Godmother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Maiden Last

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Mass Attendance: Weekly [ ] Occasionally [ ]  
Seldom [ ] Never [ ]

Godmother's Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church City State

Godmother was Married By: Priest [ ] Justice of the Peace [ ]  
Minister [ ] Judge [ ]

## Seminar Attended

Seminar Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparation Complete For: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: Yes [ ] No [ ] Godmother: Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Mother: Yes [ ] No [ ] Godfather: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized By: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

42021 Hwy. 621

Gonzales, LA. 70737

(225) 647-8461 Fax: ( 225) 647-5125

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**Sponsor Eligibility Certificate  
Baptism**

I am a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_ parish.  
*(Name of Church Parish )*

- I am sixteen (16) years of age or older
- Confirmed
- My marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church
- I am a regularly practicing member of the Church
- I have been registered in my Church parish for at least three (3) months.

I have read the above and understand the role which I am undertaking and promise to live a life worthy of this call.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print the name of the Sponsor/Godparent*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Sponsor/Godparent*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of parents or child to be baptized (Please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of sponsor's Pastor*

(Church Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Note:** Please take this sponsor form to the Church parish you are registered with. The pastor will sign and seal it and the Church will fax or mail it back to St. Mark.

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