

BAPTISM POLICY

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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. **Expecting families are asked to call the Parish Office at 647-8461 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. 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.**

What is expected of parents is certainly expected of godparents as regards their faith life. God parents serve as the official witnesses for the Church at baptism.

Qualifications For Sponsors

1. **They must be sixteen (16) years of age or older**
2. **Confirmed**
3. **If married, marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church**
4. **Regularly Practicing members of the Church**
5. **Registered at least three (3) months in their Church parish**

A baptized Christian who is not Catholic and fully practicing their own Christian faith may serve as a Christian witness, or one godparent, provided the other godparent qualifies to be a sponsor. A baptized Catholic whose only lack of qualification for being a sponsor is that he/she is not confirmed and who is currently enrolled in a program of preparation for Confirmation may also serve as a Christian witness. Otherwise, no baptized, non-Confirmed Catholic, nor a Catholic whose marriage is not recognized by the Catholic Church, nor a Catholic who is not practicing the faith may be a Christian Witness. If there are any questions concerning the eligibility of a sponsor or Christian witness, these must be discussed with the Pastor prior to contacting a prospective sponsor or Christian witness.

It is advisable that parents consider these requirements before choosing godparents so as to avoid possible embarrassment. Godparent candidates chosen from other Church parishes must receive in writing a letter from their parish priest attesting to their Confirmation and regular participation in parish worship. This letter must be delivered to the parish office **PRIOR** to the time of the baptism.

Prior to the regularly scheduled celebration of Baptism, a seminar is held as part of the preparation process. Both parents and godparents must attend this seminar. Any problems in this regard must be discussed with the Pastor.

ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE IN TWO WEEKS BEFORE BAPTISM

2010
St. Mark Catholic Church
Gonzales, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF BAPTISMAL SEMINARS AND BAPTISMS

SEMINAR

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

February 2

March 2

March 23

April 27

June 1

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28

November 2

November 30

December 28

BAPTISM

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

February 7

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6

July 4

August 1

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 2

ST. MARK CHURCH BAPTISM INFORMATION SHEET

Today's Date: _____

Registered in Parish: Yes [] No []

Contributing: Yes [] No []

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Work Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Religion: _____

Confirmed: Yes [] No []

Father's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Mother's Full Maiden Name: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Religion: _____

Confirmed: Yes [] No []

Mother's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Place of Marriage: _____

Priest []

Minister []

Judge []

Justice of the Peace []

Parent's Address: _____

Home Number: _____

Name of Child: _____
First Middle Last

Due Date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City of Birth: _____

Gender: Male () Female ()

Godfather's Name: _____

Religion: _____

Confirmed: Yes []

No []

Church Parish: _____

Godfather's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Godfather's

Place of Marriage: _____

Priest []

Minister []

Judge []

Justice of the Peace []

Godmother's Name: _____

Religion: _____

Confirmed: Yes []

No []

Church Parish: _____

Godmother's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

Godmother's

Place of Marriage: _____

Priest []

Minister []

Judge []

Justice of the Peace []

Date 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

Sponsor Eligibility Certificate
Baptism

1. I declare that I am a **baptized and confirmed Catholic** and that I am a **registered member** of _____
_____ Parish.
(Name of Church)
2. **I believe all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches and truly makes a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation.**
3. **As a practicing Catholic, I participate at Mass on Sundays and Holydays and I receive the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.**
4. **I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a Godparent. I intend to encourage my Godchild in the practice of the Catholic faith by word and example.**

I _____ Have read the above, understand the role
(Please Print)
which I am undertaking and promise to live a life worthy of this call.

Signature of Sponsor/Godparent

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

Signature of sponsor's Pastor

(Church Seal)

Date

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Date