

Congratulations from all of us here at St. Mary Parish!

Below are some guidelines governing the Sacrament of Baptism

Clergy

One of the priests normally performs the ceremony. Guest Catholic priests or deacons usually can be accommodated. A letter of good standing from the diocese of the guest priest will be required. Non-Catholic clergy are not permitted to perform Baptisms. Please call office at 203.869.9393 if you would like a guest priest.

Godparents

There are several considerations and regulations to keep in mind when choosing godparents. Their role is to be able to witness a living and active faith in Jesus Christ and to be able to pass this on to your child by word and example. They also have the responsibility to ensure your child is raised and educated in the Catholic faith if you are unable to fulfill this obligation. *This does not indicate the godparents are or will become your child's legal guardian.*

The godparents should be close to your child and actively involved in your child's life. The godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. They must also be at least 16 years of age and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. If married, they must be married according to Church Law. Godparents are required to present a "Sponsor Certificate." This is either a form or letter signed and sealed by the pastor of the parish at which they attend Mass. The form or letter attests that the individuals are appropriate to assume the role of godparent. A non-Baptized person is not permitted to serve as a godparent. *Please submit the document as soon as possible.*

Baptismal gowns, candles, fees, and certificate

The family provides the child's baptismal gown. The gown is traditionally white. The parish provides a small baptismal bib and candle which are yours to keep. There is no fee for Baptism. However, a donation to the parish is appreciated. If you would like a copy of the Baptism certificate, please contact the parish office.

After Baptism

You are your child's first and most important witness to the Catholic Faith. Religious Education begins at birth. Pray with your baby daily. You can make the Sign of the Cross with your child's right hand. Place his/her hand on the forehead saying, "In the name of the Father," bring that little hand down to the chest saying, "and of the Son," then to the left shoulder, "and of the Holy," then on the right shoulder, "Sprit, Amen." We tend to use nursery rhymes with our children. Why not teach the Sign of the Cross?

Bring your baby to Mass. Don't worry about other people. If your baby gets too loud simply go to the vestibule and return when ready. As your baby gets older, bring religious books to Mass. If you bring toys, non-religious books and/or snacks, Mass becomes an entertaining picnic. Teach that the church is a special (sacred) space where we worship the Lord, our God, truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

Visit the Alphabits website to help you on this journey of raising Catholic children:

Alphabits [www.https://formationreimagined.org/alphabits/](https://formationreimagined.org/alphabits/)

Discipleship requires us to live our faith. At a very early age, young children will need to be accompanied by caring adults who can show them how to live a life of discipleship. Eventually, the example set for them will become their own way of life. In time, the young children will grow into disciples and accompany others. Alphabits is separated into three age groups: Birth to 6 Months, 6 to 24 Months, and 3 to 6 Years. At the age of 6, your child should be registered to attend religious education classes in your parish.

Parish Website: www.stmarygreenwich.org for Mass times, link to daily Mass on Facebook, photos, videos, announcements, and more.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at stmarygrn@gmail.com.

