

## **The Basilica of St. John The Evangelist**

### **Baptisms Effective 7/1/2021 –**

Baptisms are scheduled on Sundays at 1:30 PM except not on the first Sunday of each month and the Sunday before some legal holidays. There are no Baptisms on Easter Sunday, the Sunday before Easter or on Christmas Day.

Up to three families may be scheduled on the same Sunday date. The Introduction, Baptismal Promises and Final Prayer are completed collectively. The anointing of each child is done individually.

Your Child's Baptism will be performed by one of the Parish Priests or Deacons. The specific clergy are assigned by a rotating schedule.

Guest Catholic Clergy are always welcome to perform a Baptism where there is a relationship with the family in question. The time of the service, in this case, will then depend upon the schedule at St John's as well as the guest clergy's own schedule. Clergy outside of the Diocese of Bridgeport must provide a "Letter of Good Standing" from their Diocese prior to the Baptism. Non-Catholic or Protestant clergy are not permitted to perform Baptisms but are welcome to attend along with your guests.

Your child must be registered for Baptism by visiting our website, [www.stjohnbasilica.org](http://www.stjohnbasilica.org). (Welcome Home-Sacraments-Baptism-Register)

Once the Priest receives your registration, you will be contacted within a few days to review various details and to confirm the date of the Baptism. Please do not contact caterers or send invitations until you have a confirmed date from the Priest or office.

#### **Godparents:**

\*There are several considerations and regulations to keep in mind when choosing godparents. Their role is to be able to be a witness to living an active faith in Jesus Christ and to be able to pass this on to your child by word and example. In addition, they also have the responsibility to ensure that your child is raised and educated in our Faith if, for some reason, you are unable to fulfill this promise. Note: this does not necessarily mean that they are also your child's legal guardian if something should happen to you. To perform their role, the godparents should be people who will be close to your child and actively involved in his/her life. For this reason, your college roommate who lives in California may not be the best choice. Nor is it always the best idea to give someone this role just because it's "their turn". In addition, to be a godparent, one must be 16 years of age or older and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. If married, one must be married according to church law.

\*At least one godparent must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church. They will need to obtain a "sponsor certificate" from their home parish. This is a statement from their Priest that they are in fact practicing their faith and in good standing. While it is preferable for both godparents to be Catholic, it is permitted for one godparent to be a Protestant or a member of the Eastern Orthodox Church provided that he/she is also Baptized

and in good standing with his own church. Since the role of godparent involves being able to witness one's own faith in Jesus as Savior, it is not permitted for a non-Baptized person (i.e., one of Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc. faith) to serve as godparent.

\*The minimum church requirement is one Catholic godmother or godfather. However, it is customary to have both. In the case of more than one set of godparents, only one godmother and one godfather are recorded on the certificate and in the sacramental records of the church. In the case of more than one godparent, there must be at least one godmother and at least one godfather. It is not permitted to have two godmothers and no godfathers.

\*It is permitted to have one or both of your godparents represented by a proxy if for some reason, they are not able to attend the Baptism. You will be asked to provide the proxy's name(s) on the registration form if this applies.

\*Sponsor Certificates should be provided to the church office prior to the Baptism.

During the ceremony, your guests may take pictures or video, however flashes and camera lights may not be used. As there can be a lot of moving around during the ceremony and for the comfort of all concerned, it is important that photographers do not get in anyone's way. It is important that photography does not become distracting to the ceremony. After the Baptism you are welcome to take additional pictures, the outside of the Basilica makes a nice backdrop for family photos.

You will need to provide your own baptismal gown for the baby. Traditionally, the gown is always white. Your child should arrive to the ceremony dressed for the Baptism. The church will provide a small Baptismal bib and a Baptismal candle, both of which are yours to keep after the ceremony as mementoes of the day.

There is no fee for the Baptism. Donations, at your own discretion, either to the church or to the Priest/Deacon are always appreciated.

After the Baptism, an official certificate will be mailed to you. It should be retained in a safe place for future reference. Copies can be requested from St. John's Church if needed.

Congratulations! We are honored to welcome your child into God's loving family.