

## Baptism Policies and Forms

Congratulations on the birth of your child! Now that you have brought your child into the world, it's time to bring him or her into the family of God to begin a journey of faith life that is filled with God's grace and blessings.

The first of all Sacraments, baptism calls us into the family of God as His adopted sons and daughters, imparting upon those who are baptized, the grace of being cleansed from original sin. In dying and rising to new life that is the drama of Baptism, the individual is freed from the bonds of sin and death and given the promise of new life. To have your child baptized at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, please read the Baptism policy.

**If you have not attended a baptism class in the past 5 years you need to attend a class. Both parents and both Godparents if possible must attend. The classes are held every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the office. If for any reason one or more cannot attend please contact the office 337-643-6472.**

Infants are to be baptized according to the norms of the Rite of Baptism. Children of Catechetical age and adults are to be initiated according to the principles of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (see RCIA). The primary responsibility of raising a child in the faith rests with the parents. The parish is to provide preparation for the parents.

**PARISH REQUIREMENTS:** Anyone who is a parishioner living within the geographical boundaries of the parish, or is a registered member on the parish census, is eligible to have their child/children baptized at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Frances Cabrini. Any discussion regarding baptisms will only be had with the biological parents (Adoptive parents included). Grandparents, friends, aunts, uncles, legal guardians, someone speaking on the parent's behalf, cannot schedule baptisms, or to provide the staff with any personal information regarding the child or parents. If this is the first child for either the mother or the father, both parents must attend a Baptism preparation course by Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/St. Frances Cabrini prior to scheduling a baptism. Again if there is a problem with any parent attending the classes please contact the office 337-643-6472.

**SCHEDULING BAPTISMS:** There will not be more than (2) baptisms scheduled at a time. All parties (parents, godparents, grandparents, family etc.) are expected and required to attend the liturgy (Mass) immediately before the baptism is celebrated. If the parents or godparents are late, or do not show up, the baptism will be rescheduled for another date. **ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED OUT AND APPROVED BEFORE A BAPTISM IS SCHEDULED.**

**SINGLE PARENTS/UNWED PARENTS:** The consent of both biological (not legal guardians) parents must be obtained prior to the celebration of Baptism. In case of single parents, a written statement of consent to have the child baptized from the non-custodial parent must be provided to the pastor prior to scheduling a meeting with a pastor, or scheduling the Baptism, unless the parental rights have been legally relinquished by the non-custodial parent (proof must be provided). In the event that a couple is not married, a copy of the child's original birth certificate must be obtained in order to state the biological father in the baptismal records.

## **Holy Rosary-Cabrini Catholic Church**

603 N. Hebert Ave.  
Kaplan, LA 70548  
337-643-6472

### **BAPTISM POLICIES**

#### ***Selection of God Parents:***

Selecting a godparent for a child is a delicate and serious task. Not every adult who will be in a child's life, not every family friend, not every aunt or uncle or cousin will be suitable for the role of godparents.

For good and salutary reasons, the Church lays down requirements for being a godparent. To be a godparent, one must be baptized and confirmed Catholic who regularly practices the faith and can receive sacraments of the Church, especially the Holy Eucharist. In order to be admitted as a godparent, one must "have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function."

The reason for these requirements is that the godparent must be able to give a coherent witness of the Christian life of his godchild. Strengthened by the sacraments of salvation and living the life of grace, the godparent "helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life....and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent on it."

From this, certain people are UNABLE to be godparents:

- 1) Those who are not BAPTIZED and CONFIRMED;
- 2) Those who are not Catholic;
- 3) Those who are not regularly practice their faith by (at minimum) attending Mass on Sundays and going to confession from time to time;
- 4) Those who cannot receive Holy Communion because of an irregular marriage situation.

The Church sets the requirements for being a godparent (and a confirmation sponsor) not in order to exclude certain people, but because the role of godparent is uniquely important and carries with it responsibilities that demand an authentic witness of Christian faith.

That said, parents and grandparents must take great care in selecting godparents and must ensure that they meet these requirements. It is always prudent to check with the pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/Cabrini Parish before asking someone to serve as godparent, so as to avoid any hard feelings or awkward situations.

No one has a right to be a godparent, especially one who does not meet the requirements set forth by the Church. What's more, every child deserves an authentic godparent, one who can be a guide in the ways of faith and who can give genuine and faithful witness to the life of grace.

NOTE: PROVIDE COPY OF CHILDS BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

BAPTISM INFORMATION

Recorded in Register: \_\_\_\_\_

Page: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLY ROSARY – CABRINI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

603 N. Hebert Ave.

Kaplan, LA 70548

337-643-6472

Baptismal Class

Attended on: \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BAPTISM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIEST OR DEACON PERFORMING BAPTISM:** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE ALL NAMES IN FULL. ( If the couple is not married and the baby carries the Father's name a Birth Certificate or Paternal paper must be attached)

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

Date of BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Certificate MUST be attached to this form.**

MARRIED: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ PRIEST: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ If not by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registered in our Parish Census: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Are you within Holy Rosary Parish : YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the father a practicing Catholic: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Confirmed: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Mother's Full (Maiden) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the mother practicing Catholic: YES: \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Confirmed: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Address of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Canon law states that at least one of the Godparents must be a confirmed Catholic, practicing the Catholic religion.**

GODFATHER'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

A practicing Catholic : YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Confirmed: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If he is not present for the Baptism, who will act as proxy? \_\_\_\_\_

GODMOTHER'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

A practicing Catholic: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Confirmed: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

If she is not present for the Baptism, who will act as proxy? \_\_\_\_\_

To be filled only if you do not have a Confirmed Catholic as your godparent

Honorary Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

A Practicing Catholic: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Confirmed: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

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**BAPTISMAL GODPARENT  
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY**

**Please initial next to each statement & question.**

Canon Law lists the requirements of those who serve as godparent for baptism as follows:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake the responsibility (16 years of age).\_\_\_\_\_
2. Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.\_\_\_\_\_
3. Must believe all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches , and truly make an effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation; and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.\_\_\_\_
4. Must be a actively practicing Catholic who attends weekly Mass.\_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you married? (Y) (N) \_\_\_\_\_ In the Church?(Y) (N) \_\_\_\_\_ If not in the Church you cannot be a sponsor. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you registered in our census? (Y) (N) \_\_\_\_\_

**I declare that I am a registered member of the parish listed below and that I meet all the requirements (listed above) to be a godparent.**

**Godparent Name:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Godparent Date of Birth:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Household Registered Under:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Godparent Church Parish:**\_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **WHAT PARISH:**\_\_\_\_\_

**City and State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Godparent Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Child to be Baptized:**\_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by your Pastor:

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a registered member of this parish, is a practicing Catholic and is eligible to serve as a godparent for baptismal.

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Fr.) \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor

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**Address:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Godparent Church Parish:**\_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU BEEN CONFIRMED? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **WHAT PARISH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City and State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Godparent Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Fr.) \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor