



A Testament to Christ

St. Olaf Catholic Parish | PO Box 1203 | Eau Claire, WI 54702-1203

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Dear Parent(s),

St. Olaf Parish rejoices with you on the new life the Lord has given you and we are happy that you have chosen to share your Catholic Faith with your new child.

The enclosed materials are designed to assist you in the process of welcoming your child into the Catholic Faith:

- A brochure which explains the process of preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Olaf.
- Two brochures which we ask you to read and then send to your godparents. Please note the need to have their pastors affirm they are practicing members of their parish.
  - \* **Catholic godparents** must complete the “Baptismal Sponsor Affirmation Statement.”
  - \* **Non-Catholic godparents** must complete the “Baptismal Witness Affirmation Statement.”

I look forward to our Monday session and also for the opportunity to meet with you at a more personal level at the time of our follow-up interview. If you have any questions or concerns about the process of preparation or the celebration of the Sacrament please do not hesitate to contact me at any time: 715-832-2504 ext. 104.

Sincerely,

Father Paul Hoffman

# The Celebration of Baptism

## Guidelines for Parents

We at St. Olaf are delighted that you are planning to present your child for Christian baptism. The Church and the parish welcomes you with joy.

This brochure outlines for you the procedure we follow to prepare for and celebrate the baptism of your child. The procedure follows the requirements of the Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of La Crosse. Please assume the responsibility for following these guidelines.

### Preparation Procedure

**Step 1: Registration:** Contact the parish office in person or by phone 715-832-2504 ext. 100 to request baptism for your child. The parish office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Step 2: Baptismal Preparation Session:** There is one session led by Father Paul in preparation for the baptism of your child. The dates of these sessions are indicated later in this brochure. The session is held on a Monday evening from 6:30—8:30 pm. Both parents are asked to attend.

Once you have completed the Baptismal Preparation Session, if you have any other questions or need to confirm details of the baptism you should contact Fr. Paul at 715-832-2504 ext. 104 .

### Celebration of the Sacrament

Baptism can be scheduled at any time with the approval of the Pastor. Ordinarily families choose one of the Weekend Masses so the parish community may joyfully welcome its new member. Our weekend Mass times are:

Saturday - 5:00 PM

Sunday - 8:30 AM or 10:30 AM

We also wish to assure the parents and the child that we accept our responsibility to provide what is necessary to foster the growth of faith.

### Preparation Sessions

September 12, 2016

January 9, 2017

April 3, 2017

July 10, 2017

October 2, 2017

To register contact the parish office in person or by phone at 715-832-2504 ext. 100.

# The Christian Sponsor at the Baptism of an Infant

To be chosen as a Godparent (sponsor) is a special honor. You, above all, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship—one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among these are:

Celebrate the anniversary of the day of baptism each year with a visit, a call or a card.

As your godchild grows, share your faith with him/her. Grow in your own knowledge of Catholic doctrine, practice, and values so you can answer his/her questions.

As your godchild receives the other sacraments, especially First Communion and Confirmation, send a card and a gift (bible, rosary, etc.) and try to be present for the celebration.

Support the parents of your godchild in their responsibility as the primary religious educators of their child.

Most important is your faith life which is nourished by daily prayer, reflection on the Word of God, and a lifestyle based on Christian values.

***Catholic godparents must sign the “Baptismal Sponsor Affirmation Statement” and return it to St. Olaf Parish at least one week before the Baptism. The form must be signed by your pastor or another parish representative.***

***Non-Catholic godparents must sign the “Baptismal Witness Affirmation Statement” and return it to St. Olaf Parish at least one week before the Baptism. The form must be signed by your pastor or another church representative.***

Because the church values the role of sponsors, there are requirements for serving in this ministry found in church law:

- 1) When an adult is to be baptized, a sponsor is to assist the adult in the Christian initiation process. When an infant is to be baptized, the sponsor is to present the child for baptism along with the child's parents. In all baptisms, the sponsor “will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism” (Canon 872).
- 2) One sponsor is sufficient (male or female), but if two sponsors are chosen, one must be male and one female (Canon 873).
- 3) To be a sponsor, a person must (Canon 874):
  - a) Be chosen by the one to be baptized or by the parents
  - b) Be willing to fulfill the role of sponsor
  - c) Be at least sixteen years old
  - d) Be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. (Please note that a Catholic who is married outside the Church or who has joined another denomination should not be chosen. These situations contradict the idea of “a practicing Catholic.”)
  - e) Not be the father or mother of the person to be baptized.
- 4) A non-Catholic Christian who has been baptized may serve as a witness to the baptism (and may therefore act as a second godparent) as long as the other godparent fulfills the requirements to be a Catholic sponsor (Canon 874).

# BAPTISMAL SPONSOR AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

As a registered and active member of

in

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parish)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City & State)

**I affirm that**

**I am regularly participating in the Sunday Eucharist Liturgy.**

**I have received the Sacraments of Initiation:  
Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.**

**If married: I am married according to the laws  
of the Catholic Church.**

**I am striving to live the Gospel message in my daily life,  
and I am supporting others in their Christian Faith,  
especially those for whom I have responsibility.**

**I am ready to support**

\_\_\_\_\_ **on his/her Catholic Christian journey,  
especially through my prayers and example of Christian living.**

**Sponsor's Name: (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor signature** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Parish Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The above is certified to be a sponsor for the  
Sacrament of Baptism**

**Return to: St. Olaf Catholic Church  
PO Box 1203, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1203  
715-832-2504  
715-832-0742 (fax)**



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Church Seal

# BAPTISMAL WITNESS AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

As a registered and active member of

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church) (City & State)

**I affirm that  
I have received the Sacrament of Baptism.**

**I am striving to live the Gospel message in my daily life,  
and I am supporting others in their Christian Faith,  
especially those for whom I have responsibility.**

**I am ready to support**

\_\_\_\_\_

**on his/her Catholic Christian journey,  
especially through my prayers  
and example of Christian living.**

**Witness Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Witness signature \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Church Representative: \_\_\_\_\_**

**The above is certified to be a sponsor for the  
Sacrament of Baptism**

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(Church Seal if available)



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