



A Testament to Christ St. Olaf Catholic Parish | PO Box 1203 | Eau Claire, WI 54702-1203

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.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you on a more personal level to discuss/or review the preparation information you will need to be fully prepared, as parents, to bring your child to the Sacrament of Baptism. I schedule my own appointments so I ask that you contact me directly to set up a time to meet. My phone number is: 715-832-2504 ext. 104.

The enclosed materials are designed to assist you in the process of welcoming your child into the Catholic Faith: We ask you to read through the pamphlet for “The Christian Sponsor” and then send them to your godparents along with the appropriate “Affirmation Statement”. 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.”

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.

Sincerely,

Father Paul Hoffman

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)**



A Testament to Christ

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**

**Return to: St. Olaf Catholic Church
PO Box 1203, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1203
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(Church Seal if available)


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