

SAINT LEO THE GREAT PARISH

227 South Exeter Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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BAPTISM INFORMATION

Congratulations! Thank you for deciding to have your child baptized at the Parish. We have several guidelines and procedures that need to be followed. You may begin the process as soon as you wish; you do not need to wait until the baby arrives.

Baptisms are conducted during a weekend liturgy. You may choose to have your child baptized at any of the weekend masses. Another option is to have a baptismal ceremony on a Sunday at 12:30 (or after the 11:30 mass).

We ask for a donation for the baptism preparation and the use of the church. A donation to the clergyman performing the ceremony is appreciated.

You must complete a sacrament preparation program. Please contact the parish office to be connected with the baptismal preparation facilitator. It is desirable that both the parents and the Godparents be present at the meeting. The sacramental preparation lasts a little over an hour, and we will work with you to schedule the meeting.

The parents must complete Baptismal Registration Form either prior to, or at, the sacramental preparation meeting. Godparents must be Catholics over 16 years of age who have received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Two catholic godparents, one male and one female, are the norm. However, only one of the parents must be Catholic, the other can be a Christian witness.

The godparents must complete the Godparent Eligibility Form. The form once completed is presented to the parish where the godparent is a registered parishioner. The parish will arrange to have the form properly signed and they must affix the parish seal to the document. Either the godparent can return the form to Saint Leo Parish or have their parish mail the form directly to Saint Leo. The Registration Form and the Godparent Registration Form are to be received in the parish office at Saint Leo *no less than* two weeks before the baptism.

The baptism is also the time when the child is “introduced” to their parish family. The first question asked of the parents is, “What name have you given your child.” Because of this question the baptism is often referred as a *Christening*. When naming your child it is hoped that you choose a name that is in keeping with Christian sensibilities. While naming your child after a saint is not mandatory for either their first or middle name, we would expect that the name you choose would not be offensive to Catholic norms, traditions, or beliefs.