



Infant Baptism

Saint John Vianney Church

Gladwyne, PA



Baptism Guidance for Parents and Godparents



Dear Parents / Guardians:

Congratulations on the arrival of your baby! The Parish community shares your joy and sense of gratitude to God for your child.

It is an exciting time for you and your family. This pamphlet has been composed to assist you in having your child baptized at Saint John Vianney Church.

Celebrating the sacrament of baptism is an extremely important step in your and your family's spiritual life. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, instituted Baptism as the means of removing original sin from our souls, of being born into His Mystical Body, and of becoming members of His Church. Baptism is necessary for salvation.

Kindly take a few minutes to look over this Baptism information and if there is anything that we can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

At St. John Vianney, we baptize infants (until they reach the age of 7) generally one Sunday of each month. Baptisms occur at 12:00 PM in the Church. Parents and Godparents (Sponsors) are asked to attend a Pre-Jordan (Baptism Prep) Class.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. William G. Donovan

Fr. Bill Donovan, Pastor



I. Baptismal Registration

Kindly complete the Baptismal Request Form. General information the child and parents is provided at this time.

II. Birth Certificate of Child

Kindly provide a copy of the child's birth certificate. If your child was adopted, it is necessary to present of a copy of the adoption decree, which includes the name of the court that entered the adoption order and the date of the order.

III. Pre-Jordan Program (Baptismal Class) for Parents & Godparents

Pre-Jordan (Baptismal Class) generally is an online course completed in less than 2 hours on the sacrament of Baptism, including its nature, effects, and celebration. Parents and Godparents are required to attend the faith formation program on Baptism. If parents participated within three years, it is not required. Below are the instructions for accessing and viewing the online Pre-Jordan Baptism Course (for parents and Godparents)

How to Access and View the Required Pre-Jordan Baptismal Course

1. Visit <https://formed.org/signup>
2. Sign up for a free account
 - a. Under "Find your Parish or Organization, search for "St John Vianney Church Gladwyne." The correct address will be 1110 Vaughan Ln, Gladwyne PA.
3. Scroll down to the section called "Sacraments"
4. Click on "Reborn: You, Your Child and the Heart of Baptism"
5. Both parents together view (Godparents can view individually):
 - a. Episode 1 (A New Creation)
 - b. Episode 2 (Entering the Mystery)
 - c. Episode 3 (Nurturing the Life of Grace)
 - d. Episode Reborn – The Gift of Godparents: More than Cards and Presents
 - e. It is also highly recommended (though optional) that the parents watch the



episode entitled “Reborn – The Mission to Love: 7 Keys to Catholic Parenting”

7. Please notify Saint John Vianney Parish when these episodes have been viewed by the parents and Godparents.

FORMED can be access on Apple TV, Amazon Fire Stick, Roku, or any SMART TV

Feel free to watch from the comfort of your living room!

IV. Selection of Godparents

A godparent is a most important person in a child’s life. His or her purpose is to be a living, active model of faith for your child every day. It is the duty of the Pastor of the parish to make sure that every child has a godparent who will faithfully fulfill their role. The Church’s requirements for Godparents:

- a) The Godparent must be at least 16 years old as required by Canon law.
- b) The Godparent has to have completed all three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.
- c) The Godparent may not be one of the child’s parents.
- d) If married, the Godparent must be married according to the law of the Church.
- e) The Godparent must also be a practicing Catholic with regular attendance.
- f) A Godparent must strive to live a life in conformity with the teachings of the Church.
- g) If there are two Godparents, they must be one male (Godfather), one female (Godmother).
- h) It is the responsibility of the Godparents or Christian witness to supply a letter of eligibility from their home parish (the one they currently attend) verifying that he or she is eligible.



While only one Godparent is required, it is customary to have two Godparents. The second one must be the opposite gender of the first Godparent. They are Godmother and Godfather. While it is not possible for a Baptized non-Catholic to serve as a Godparent, a Baptized non-Catholic may serve as a Christian witness to the Baptism. At least one Godparent to the Baptism must be Catholic and meet the above requirements since a Godparent is above all responsible for the spiritual upbringing of the child.

A non-baptized person may not serve as a Godparent or as a Christian witness.

Please follow up with your chosen Godparents and Christian Witness as appropriate to ensure all their paperwork (certificate of eligibility) is received two weeks prior to the date of Baptism.

A certificate of eligibility is a document from the parish of the Godparent which indicates that their parishioner does qualify to serve as a Godparent according to the established criteria.

V. Sacramental Fee

An offering of \$150 is customarily made to the Parish.

VI. Celebration of Baptism

Kindly complete the above requirements two weeks prior to the Baptismal date.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes early on the day of the Baptism in order to receive instructions for your participation in the ceremony.



VII. Baptism Checklist

- Read Baptismal Guidelines
- Complete Baptismal Registration Form
- Complete Pre-Jordan (Baptism) Course
 - Parents
 - Godparents
- Submit a copy of baby's birth certificate
- Submit Certificate of Eligibility
 - Godfather
 - Godmother