

St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish

"Come, gather for God's great feast" Rev. 19:17

E10455 Mallard Road Fall Creek, WI 54742 715. 877.3400 www.straymond.us straymondparish@gmail.com

Dear Parent(s),

St. Raymond's Parish shares your joy at the gift of life from the Lord! It is so wonderful 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 Baptism at St. Raymond's.
- A Registration Form for you to fill out and send/e-mail to the parish.
- A brochure 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.
- "Baptismal Sponsor Affirmation Statement" (must be completed by Catholic godparents).
- "Baptismal Witness Affirmation Statement" (must be completed by non-Catholic godparents).

PLEASE NOTE: All paperwork is due no later than one month prior to the baptism.

You are asked to participate in *two sessions* which meet according to the dates and times indicated in the brochure. These sessions may be completed *in either order*. One is an evening presentation, by me personally, on what baptism is all about. The second is a meal and discussion, directed by parents from our parish who have firsthand experience of what it means to be a Catholic family of faith in the midst of the difficult challenges of our society. I believe you will learn much from them about the art of Christian parenting. They will also provide ample time for discussion of the issues presented. ***Please send an RSVP to straymondparish@gmail.com***

I look forward to your evening session with me and other new parents, at which time I will also have the opportunity to speak with each of you personally. 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: 715-855-1294, ext. 101.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Father Derek Sakowski
Pastor

The Celebration of Baptism

Guidelines for Parents

We at St. Raymond's are delighted that you are planning to present your child for Christian baptism! This brochure outlines for you the procedure we follow in order to prepare for and celebrate the baptism of your child. Please assume the responsibility for following these guidelines.

Preparation Procedure

Step 1 (Registration) Contact the parish office. This is best done by e-mail (straymondparish@gmail.com). You may also try calling at (715) 877-3400 or presenting yourself in person. The parish office is typically open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings following the 8 a.m. Mass. **PLEASE NOTE:** You will not be able to set a date until you have submitted your registration form!

Step 2: Baptismal Preparation Sessions: There are *two separate and required sessions* in preparation for the baptism of your child. After submitting your registration form to the parish office, Marianne Callaghan, Director of Religious Education for St. Raymond's, will contact you and set up a meeting with a mentoring couple and with Fr. Derek Sakowski.

If you have already been through these sessions once, you may ask Father's permission to waive the requirement.

Scheduling

Baptisms are to be scheduled during one of the parish Masses (Saturday 6 PM or Sunday 8:30 AM). The majority of weekends are acceptable, but you will need to check with the parish to be sure.

Having a "private" baptism is not an option. Every Sacrament is a celebration of the whole Body of Christ, and it is important to celebrate this sacrament as a parish community.

Forms

The Baptismal Registration Form and the Baptismal Sponsor or Baptismal Witness Forms must be filled out and returned to the parish office.

The Christian Sponsor at the Baptism of an Infant

To be chosen as a Godparent (sponsor) is a special honor. You 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, including the following:

- 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 and practice so that 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 moral integrity.

Catholic godparents must sign the “Baptismal Sponsor Affirmation Statement” and return it to St. Mary’s Parish at least one month 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. Mary’s Parish at least one month before the Baptism. The form must be signed by your pastor or another church representative.

Because the Church takes very seriously the role of sponsors, there are requirements for serving in this ministry, as 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 and confirmed Catholic¹
- 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).

¹ 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.”

BAPTISMAL SPONSOR AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

(For a Catholic godparent. N.B., this must be sent in one month prior to the baptism)

As a registered and active member of

_____ in _____
(church) (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 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: _____

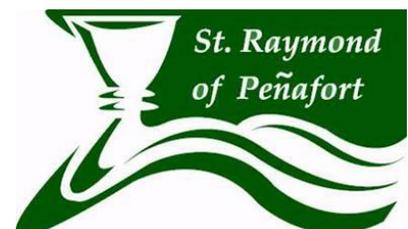
Date: _____

Parish Representative: _____

Parish Seal:

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

Return to: St. Raymond Parish
E10455 Mallard Road
Fall Creek, WI 54742
straymondparish@gmail.com
715.877.3400



BAPTISMAL WITNESS AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

(For a non-Catholic godparent. N.B., this must be sent in one month prior to the baptism)

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: _____

Parish Seal:

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

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