

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

****PLEASE CAREFULLY READ ALL THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION****

Aware of the serious commitment you are making when you ask for the baptism of your child, you will be pleased to know that the Church takes baptism very seriously and that the Canon Code of the Roman Catholic Church sets out certain requirements for the baptism of children.

1. All Baptisms at Saint Thomas More and Saint Willibrord are done as part of a weekend Mass, so that the parish may support your family in prayer and help you welcome your child into the Church.

- a. Saint Thomas More: Saturday, 4:00pm
Sunday, 9:30am
- b. Saint Willibrord: Sunday, 11:15am

2. We understand you might already have a date in mind for your child's Baptism. Pre-baptismal preparation is required and must be completed before the desired date of Baptism.

For the English Roman Catholic Parishes of Verdun, this is given according to the following program:

- **3 sessions of Baptism-focused preparation** with the Parish Priest or Deacon and the Pastoral Associate. These sessions include attendance at Sunday Mass. If there are any other families with desired date of Baptism in the same season as yours, you will be in the same preparation sessions. The current schedule is provided below.
- **Godparents are required to attend the 3 sessions** of Baptism preparation as well. However, if they are from out of town they may meet with their own Parish Priest and provide a letter from him confirming they have received formation for their role.

3. Current Preparation Schedule: Summer Baptisms: July 1 – 30 September 2022, at Saint Thomas More

Sunday, June 12 9:30am: Mass
10:45am-12:00pm: Preparation

Sunday, June 19 9:30am: Mass
10:45am-12:00pm: Preparation

Sunday, June 26 9:30am: Mass – includes the anointing of the child
The anointing is not the baptism itself; however, Godparents are asked to attend. If they are unable to, a Catholic family member may stand as Proxy providing this has been discussed first with the Parish Priest.
10:45am-12:00pm: Preparation

4. Specific information regarding Godparents - By agreeing to be a Godparent, this individual agrees to take an active hand in the child's Roman Catholic upbringing and so, the following guidelines are provided:

- a. To be a Godparent, the candidate must be over the age of 16, and be a baptized and confirmed practicing Catholic of the Roman/Latin Rite or Eastern Rite.
 - *Proof of baptism and confirmation must be provided from the parish where the sacrament was given.*
 - *If the desired Godparent is Orthodox (such as, Greek or Russian Orthodox), there must also be a Godparent who fulfills the Catholic-specific requirements.*
- b. If more than one Godparent is desired, they must be of the opposite gender (one male and one female). If more than two Godparents are desired, please note that only two can be named in the register as such and remaining individuals may stand and be named in the register as Christian Witnesses.
 - *In this situation, at least one of the Godparents must fulfil all the requirements of (a).*
- c. An individual who does not meet the above requirements but who is of a Christian denomination that practices Trinitarian baptism (i.e., was baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"), or who is a Roman Catholic who has not yet been Confirmed, may stand as a Christian Witness.
 - *In this situation, at least one Godparent who fulfills the requirements of (a) is also needed.*
- d. In highly exceptional circumstances resulting in the desired Godparent being unable to be present at the baptism, a Proxy may stand in their place; the Proxy will not be named in the register.
 - *If a Proxy is necessary in your situation, please discuss this as soon as possible with the Parish Priest.*