

Baptism Protocol

St. Jude Roman Catholic Church

Londonderry, NH

Baptism for Children age infant up to 7 years old:

Baptisms at St. Jude Parish are held on a monthly basis in the church. Deacon Marc presides at communal baptisms, usually at 1:30 PM on Sunday, following the 12:00 Mass. A Baptism may also be celebrated at any of the scheduled Masses during the weekend. Baptisms are not usually celebrated during the season of Lent, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Parents must be members of St. Jude Parish, or have written permission from their domicile parish pastor to have the Baptism at St. Jude Parish Church. Parents will be asked to attend a Baptismal Preparation class with Deacon Marc. Parents are exempt from the class if they have taken it within the past five years. The baptism instruction classes are scheduled through the parish office. Please call Sally Green in the parish office at 432-3333 to sign up for a class. Times for upcoming classes are listed in our parish bulletin.

Parents will be asked to fill out a form with all required information regarding the baptism, i.e. name of the child to be baptized, date and place of birth etc. to the St. Jude parish office.

Parents may choose one or two godparents for their child. If parents do not select 2 practicing Catholics as prospective godparents, they may choose to have one godparent who meets the requirements, then choose another person to be a Christian Witness. According to the Canon Law of the Church; a Catholic godparent must be a practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age; must have received the Catholic initiation sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation; and, if married, must have been married in the Catholic Church or with the permission of the Church. The prospective godparent(s) will be asked to submit a sponsor eligibility form to their parish and have it signed and sealed by their pastor and mailed to St. Jude Parish. (To get this form all you have to do is call your parish office and ask for a sponsor eligibility form.) Once the sponsor forms are returned to St. Jude Parish by the godparent's parish, the parent may schedule the baptism by calling the parish office.

There is no fee for the baptism but donations are always gladly accepted.

Baptism for non-members of St. Jude Parish

If parents who attend another parish wish to have their baby baptized at St. Jude parish; a letter must be sent from the parish giving the pastor of St. Jude Parish permission to baptize the child and verifying that the parents' are active members of their parish and that they have completed the Baptismal preparation required by that parish. (Canonically, a pastor has no jurisdiction to baptize a baby outside of his parish boundaries without the permission of the domicile pastor.) Forms for parents and godparents must be received by the St. Jude parish office before the baptism may be scheduled.

Baptism for Children age 7 and over:

Parents wishing to arrange to have a child age 7 and over baptized, will be asked to attend the RCIA process for children since they have reached the age of reason. Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Trish Woodward, at 437-7026 to arrange for an appointment.

Baptism for Adults wishing to become a part of the Catholic Church:

Adults wishing to become a part of the Roman Catholic Church may contact any member of the parish pastoral team to inquire about the (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This process is a faith journey into the Catholic faith. The inquirer will journey with the St. Jude RCIA team and members of our community through the process. For more information please call Father Bob Gorski at (603) 768-1936 or the parish office at (603) 432-3333.