Baptismal Preparation Requirements for Gregory County

The Sacrament of Baptism is one of the most important events in a person’s life. Through it, original sin is washed away and God comes to dwell in the soul. The redemption and salvation that Christ won for us through His death and resurrection are applied and we become members of His Body, the Church. For this reason, given the immensity of the gift, we ask that those seeking to have their child baptized prepare.

This preparation in part comes from the responsibility taken on in the ritual. At the beginning of the rite, the priest will say, “You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?” Godparents are asked similarly.

With great joy, the Church would like to assist parents in this responsibility as much as possible. Therefore, in Gregory County we ask that all person’s seeking to have their children baptized engage in the following things:

1. Let Fr. Dillon, Kimberly Veskrna, or Rita know that you are beginning baptismal preparations.
2. Given words of the rite above, we ask that all persons seeking to have their child baptized fulfill the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. If this is not possible, please let Fr. Dillon know before continuing preparations so that he understands.
3. Watch the baptismal preparation series, “Reborn,” on [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org). Registration on the website is free, however a parish code is required. Please contact the parish offices for the code.
4. After having viewed “Reborn,” please call the parish offices and set up a meeting with Fr. Dillon where we can meet and look at setting up the baptism.

As a child is baptized they are also given a godparent, someone who exemplifies the faith and will take an active role in the child’s spiritual life. While most definitely an honor, when seeking out godparents, particular attention should not be given to making someone “feel honored,” but choosing someone whom you find to be an excellent example of living the Catholic faith and will take the role seriously. Up to two godparents can be chosen (one male and one female), but there must be at least one (of either gender).

Requirements for a godparent:

1. At least 18 years old
2. Have been a confirmed Catholic for at least three years
3. In good standing with the Church
   1. Weekly Sunday mass attendance
   2. If single, living chastely
   3. If married, marriage is blessed by the Church

If the godparent(s) is not a member of the parishes in Gregory County, a letter of good standing must be sent by their parish priest at least two weeks before the baptism is to take place.