

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH
DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
342 Iron Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1824
Phone: 570-784-0801

BAPTISM INFORMATION

1. Baptism ordinarily takes place each Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass, at approximately **12 noon**. If requested, arrangements may be made to have the Baptism administered on another day. You may also have your baby baptized at one of the weekend Masses. Please call the Parish Office (570-784-0801) to schedule the day and time of the child's baptism, or if you have any questions.
2. Both parents should be present for the Baptism of the child. Other family members and friends are most welcome for the ceremony.
3. The mother will hold the baby during the ceremony. The father will assist. All responses that are made by parents and godparents will be in a booklet provided.
4. The child may be dressed according to the choice of the parents. You may follow any traditions of your family.
5. Someone, other than the parents or the godparents, may take photographs and videos during the ceremony.
6. Each child is given a white garment symbolizing being clothed in Christ and a baptismal candle symbolizing the light of Christ being the child's light throughout life. Also a baptismal certificate is given for the child. It is suggested that parents have an annual baptismal anniversary celebration at which these articles are shown to the child.
7. If parents have been negligent in the practice of their faith, this is the opportunity to begin anew. The baptismal ceremony reminds parents of their duty to give good example to their children.
8. Godparents will need signed sponsor forms obtained from their parish to serve as godparents, and these should be given to the Parish Office sometime before the scheduled baptism. Only one godparent is necessary for Baptism, but if two godparents are chosen, one must be a male and the other a female. The godparent (s) must be a practicing Catholic, which means that he/she attends Mass regularly, is at least 16 years old and has already received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and if married, is married according to the laws of the Catholic Church. A non-Catholic person who belongs to another Christian denomination and who is practicing that religion may serve as a Christian witness to Baptism together with a Catholic godparent.
9. You need to be registered at St. Columba Church or another parish to have your child baptized here. If you belong to another parish, but wish to have your child baptized at St. Columba Church because of some association with St. Columba Church, you need a letter of permission from your present pastor. If you belong to St. Columba Church, but want to have your child baptized in another Catholic Church, you need a letter of permission from the pastor of St. Columba Church.
10. Parents are expected to attend an information and instruction session before the Baptism of the child. If parents have attended a session previously, they need not attend.
11. Since baptismal records are permanent, it is important that all information be accurate. The first name, the middle name, and the last name of the individual to be baptized are necessary. First names and middle initials of parents and sponsors are needed. The mother's maiden name will appear on the baptismal record.