

BAPTISM IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Infant Baptism

According to the laws of the universal Church, a minor child under the age of seven is considered an infant, as well as those who habitually lack the use of reason. For an infant to be licitly baptized, it is necessary that:

- a) At least one of the parents consents to it (or the person that lawfully takes the parents place) and; there is a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Church. For example: formation and continued education in the faith, and participation in the spiritual life of the church community. [Baptism is to be postponed until after any adoption is complete and adoption papers/proof can be procured.]
- b) There should be at least one (1) Godparent for the person to be baptized (who is not the father or mother of the one to be baptized). IF there are to be two Godparents, they must be of the opposite sex, one man one woman.

Qualifications for Godparent/s: The Role of Godparents

1. Be designated by the parents of the person to be baptized; if this designation is lacking, the Pastor or Minister of the Sacrament may designate.
2. Has an intention to carry out the duty
3. Be at least 16 years of age
4. Be a Roman Catholic of the Latin Rite (Eastern Rite Catholics are allowed)
5. Received the Sacrament of Confirmation
6. Received the Sacrament of Holy Communion
7. Be a practicing Catholic leading a life of faith in harmony with the Church
8. If married, he/she was married in the Church
9. Not be under a lawfully imposed or declared canonical penalty
10. A baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic community may be listed as a “Christian Witness” to a baptism, along with a God-parent. This privilege applies only to a Non-Catholic belonging to an ecclesial community (i.e. Mainline Protestant Church, Greek Orthodox, and other Churches with valid baptisms.) A Catholic cannot be a listed as a Witness and a non-Christian cannot be a Witness.
11. If the God-parent/s are unable to attend the baptism ceremony, you may speak with the priest or deacon about a God-parent by Proxy. The names of the Godparents, not the proxy, will appear on the Baptism Certificate.

Preparing for Baptism

- Come to the parish office to register anytime during regular office hours.
- If not registered at this parish, permission for baptism from your parish priest is requested.
- Bring a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate or a copy of the Certificate of Live Birth.
- God-parent/s should call their church of baptism to request a newly issued “Updated Baptism Certificate with Notations” to be sent to our parish.
- Parents and God-parent/s should attend a Baptism Preparation Class.

The OLPS class is usually on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM, in St. Raphael Hall. Baptisms are the last Sunday in each month, unless otherwise scheduled with a priest or deacon.