

Baptism FAQ:

Q: Is it necessary for a person to be registered in a parish in order to have a child baptized in that parish?

A: No, it is not necessary to be registered. But if you are registered at a different parish you must obtain a letter of permission to baptize at a different parish.

Q: Who is the class required for?

A: Both parents and Godparents.

Q: What do we do if either parents or Godparents cannot attend the class?

A: You may take the pre-Baptismal class at any parish and get a letter of class completion or certificate signed and sealed from the parish you attended the class at.

Q: Is there a fee for the class and Baptism?

A: Our pre-Baptismal class is free and the Baptism is a donation of any given amount.

Q: Can I attend a class but Baptize my child at a later date?

A: Yes, you may use your letter of completion for 2 years after the class you attend.

Q: Can I take the class after the Baptism?

A: No, a class must be taken **before** the Baptism.

Q: What are the requirements for parents?

A: The Baptism registration form must be filled out along with a copy of your child's birth certificate, if not applicable, final declaration of legal adoption. If not registered here, letter of permission for Baptism from another church.

Q: If one parent brings a child for baptism but the other parent is uninvolved or will not come to the classes, can the baptism still take place?

A: Yes. Only one parent needs to ask for baptism. However, it's usually prudent that both parents know about the baptism and agree to the raising of the child Catholic. The reasons for the parents absence is a legitimate area of pastoral concern for a minister, however, in and of itself such an absence cannot be a reason to deny baptism.

Q: What are the requirements to be a Godparent?

A: Only one godparent is needed but two is also allowed. If two different people are chosen to be godparents, they must be one male and one female. They **must** be at least 16 years old, practicing Catholics and have all 3 Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, 1st Communion, and Confirmation). If godparents are married to each other or other people, they **must** be married through the Roman Catholic Church. Parents or legal guardians cannot be godparents of their own child.

Q: Do I have to have 2 Godparents for my child?

A: No, it is only required that you have 1 Godparent.

Q: Can I have 2 of the same gendered Godparents or can I have more than 2 Godparents?

A: No, you can only have 1 man and 1 woman as the official Godparents of your child, however you may have them stand as witnesses of your child's Baptism. As a witness they will not be on any documentation or certificates of your child's Baptism, nor will they be considered a Godparent by the Church.

Q: The Godparents I have chosen do not have all 3 Sacraments of initiation or are completing them at a later date, can they still be my child's Godparents?

A: No, to Baptize your child the Godparents must have all 3 Sacraments of initiation before the Baptism, we understand you had your mind set on certain Godparents, but we cannot make exceptions.

Q: The God parents I have chosen are married but not through the Roman Catholic Church, can they still be my child's Godparent?

A: No, if the Godparents you have chosen are married even if they are not married to each other, they must be married through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Q: Can a non-Catholic person be a Godparent?

A: No, they will be considered a witness and not listed in any documentation only if an actual Godparent is present.

Q: Can I have only witnesses and no Godparents for my Child?

A: No, you must have at least one Godparent who has received all 3 Sacraments of initiation and the Sacrament of Matrimony if they're married.