

Baptism Preparation Information

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized into the Roman Catholic Church and St. Ann Parish Community - we look forward to welcoming this newest member of the family! Below is some information that should prove helpful in preparing for this sacrament:

Because there is some preparation that goes along with having your child baptized, we normally ask that you begin preparations approximately 6 weeks prior to the date proposed for the baptism. The actual date for the celebration of the sacrament must be scheduled with the Parish, and may be limited by other liturgical celebrations or seasons, so some flexibility is necessary.

There is a baptism preparation class that parents and godparents are asked to attend if they have not already done so. They are held at St. Ann approximately every month (please call the parish office for the scheduled dates). The class may also be taken at another parish if that works better with your schedule and/or the schedule or location of the godparents. You will need to bring a certificate or letter from that parish stating the name/s of those who participated in the preparation class and the date of the class to St. Ann Parish prior to the baptism.

In having your child baptized, you are committing yourselves to bringing him or her up in the practice of the faith, so we ask that you become a member of the parish if you are not already, and celebrate Sunday Mass with us each week. In this way, you have the help and support of the community and the abundant graces of God through celebration of the Sacraments to help you raise your child to know and love God and be the best that he or she can be.

Godparents act as witnesses to what it means to live the faith and assist the parents in helping the child to grow in that faith. Because of this, the Church asks that Catholic godparents be fully initiated and living according to the teachings of the Church. This enables the godparents to assist the child in discovering the tremendous richness in our faith and to accompany the child on his faith journey.

More specifically, the Church's requirements for godparents are:

- Normally they are at least 16 years of age
- They are fully initiated members of the Roman Catholic Church (they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation).
- They are Catholics in good standing, living according to the teachings of the faith - participating in Mass on the weekends and living a lifestyle consistent with Church teachings.
- If married, the marriage must be recognized as valid by the Church.

-If they are not married, they should be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Church.

-There is to be only one male or one female godparent, or one of each.

-If they have not done so already, they are asked to attend a class or workshop on baptism in order to better understand their role as Godparent and the meaning of the sacrament.

-Godparents are asked to obtain a "Certificate of Eligibility" or similar document from their parish that states that they meet the above criteria and are eligible to be a godparent. Our Diocese has forms for this purpose which should be completed by the godparent and then presented to their parish to be signed and sealed - this serves as the "Certificate of Eligibility" that indicates the person meets the criteria to be a godparent.

-It is permissible to have one baptized person from a non-Catholic Church serve as a Christian witness together with a Catholic godparent. A Christian Witness cannot be a non-practicing Catholic.

If you would like any other information, please contact Antony in the parish office (contact information below).

Have a blessed day!

Antony Bishop
Director of Faith Formation/Pastoral Assistant