

Baptism

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I have to attend classes to have my child baptized?

When parents present their child for baptism, they are asking the Church to receive the child into the family of Jesus. They are also making a commitment to their child to help him/her become part of this faith community.

The Catholic Church teaches that sacraments should be presented to persons with identifiable indicators of faith. With infant baptism these indicators come from the parents. The Rite of Baptism states that, "unless there is danger of death or other circumstances, Baptism should be delayed long enough to provide sufficient time to prepare parents for the actual celebration of the sacrament".

By participating in classes for baptismal preparation, you are beginning the process of fulfilling the rite for this sacrament.

How soon should I baptize my child?

Ordinarily, a child is baptized within a few weeks after birth. However it is not uncommon to baptize when a child is a few months old. In all cases, a child should only be baptized when the parents are prepared to accept the responsibilities that accompany the reception of the sacrament.

How will my child be baptized?

At St. Genevieve's baptism will be having water poured over your child's head. You will be given more information about other options for baptism during the preparation class. You will be asked to select which type baptism you prefer for your child.

What does a Godparent/Sponsor do and how many can we have for our child?

The Rite of Baptism says 'insofar as possible, the one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor, who together with the parents, presents the infant for baptism, and who will help the baptized lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism and fulfill the obligations connected with it.' One sponsor must be a practicing Catholic and has been Confirmed. Sponsors that are not practicing Catholics are a Christian Witness not a Godparent. For more information on choosing a godparent/sponsor, see the handout on godparents in your folder.

Can I take pictures during the baptism?

Non-flash pictures and video recordings may be taken during the ceremony. We do ask, however, that every attempt be made to preserve the sanctity of the moment and to avoid any activities that will distract from the ceremony.

Do I need to provide a candle or gown for my child?

The parish provides you with a candle at the baptismal celebration, which is yours to keep as a remembrance. Tradition indicates that a child who has been baptized be clothed in white to symbolize his/her new birth. You are welcome to have your child wear a white gown or outfit. Bring the outfit with you for your child to wear after they have been baptized.