

Guidelines for Children's Baptism

- Baptisms will be celebrated outside of Mass.
- During the Rite of Reception, the priest/deacon does not have to actually touch the child's forehead, but could make the sign of the cross "over" the child.
- The anointing with the oil of catechumens will be omitted. The "laying on of hands" that replaces the pre-baptismal anointing will also be omitted; the presider simply extends hands over the child while saying the prayer.
- Water is to be prepared in a pitcher or container for the baptism; it is not to be drawn out of a font or bowl. The water in the pitcher is blessed at the appropriate time and then is poured directly over the child's head and into a font/bowl for the baptism. After the baptism, the water is disposed of properly.
- The parents or godparents may take the baptismal garment and candle from a table, rather than being handed it by the celebrant or another minister. I am suggesting that we ask the godparents to hold the baptismal garment and place it on the child. We should still hand the candle to the godparents. But if you are not comfortable doing that, then you may ask the godfather to light the candle from the paschal candle.
- The Ephphatha rite (including the touching of the ears and mouth) will be omitted.