



Must the godparents attend the preparation session?

Godparents and Christian witnesses are always welcome to attend the preparation session. However, we recognize that they are not always available to do so, especially if they live out of town.

Who can be a godparent?

A godparent must be a baptized, confirmed and practicing Catholic who is 16 years of age or older. At least one godparent is required. When two godparents are chosen, one must be male and one female.

Can a non-Catholic be a godparent?

A baptized Christian (non-Catholic) cannot be a godparent. However, such a person may act as a Christian witness to the Baptism in addition to a Catholic godparent.

Can we have more than two godparents?

You may have additional godparents and witnesses. However, only two names will appear in the Baptismal register and on the certificate.

Where is the Baptismal information recorded?

The celebrations of Baptism that take place in our parish are recorded in our parish Baptismal Register. The subsequent sacraments of Confirmation and Marriage of persons baptized in our parish, whether they take place here or elsewhere, are also recorded in our Baptismal register. The celebration of First Eucharist is only recorded in the church where the celebration takes place. Baptism certificates are always issued by the parish where the sacrament is celebrated.

When do Baptisms take place?

Communal celebrations of Baptism take place on the last Sunday of every month (except during Lent) at 12:15 pm. Usually, we try to arrange these celebrations for not more than nine children at one time.

Can we have our child's Baptism during Sunday Mass?

Parents who regularly participate in the Sunday Eucharist may request the baptism of their child during Mass. A suitable date will be selected in consultation with the pastor. Normally, only one child is baptized during a celebration of Sunday Mass.

Can we have a "private" Baptism?

Baptism is never a private act. It is always a celebration of the entire faith community. When particular circumstances require it, Baptism may be celebrated at a time outside the usual schedule. However, it is understood that the celebration is public and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

How many people can we invite to the celebration of Baptism?

Baptism is always a celebration of the entire faith community. So, in a word, everyone is welcome at the celebration.



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THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN



*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28: 19 - 20



Dear Parents:

Congratulations on the birth of your child. We look forward to welcoming your child into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

Christian initiation begins with the sacrament of Baptism and is completed with the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. In Baptism your child will receive new life in Christ and become a member of Christ's Body, the Church. In Confirmation, he/she will be sealed with the Holy Spirit and strengthened to give witness to Jesus Christ in our world. By participating fully in the Eucharist with us each Sunday, your child will be nourished with the Lord's Body and Blood and be sustained on his/her faith journey.

Baptism is also the doorway to the sacraments of Christian vocation: Marriage and Holy Orders. In these sacraments Christians respond to God's call and deepen their baptismal commitment to love and serve the Lord and their neighbour in a unique and permanent way.

All who are baptized also experience the mercy and healing power of God in a special way in the sacraments of Reconciliation and in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Because of their union with Christ in Baptism, they are privileged to experience Christ's ministry of healing and compassion.

This brochure will provide you with information regarding the preparation necessary for the Baptism of your child.

Who can be baptized?

Any child or adult not previously baptized in the Catholic Church or other Christian community may be baptized. In the case of infants, generally one of the parents is a baptized and practicing Catholic.

What about older children?

Children who have reached the age of reason (beyond grade 2) are initiated in a manner similar to adults. An appropriate process of formation takes place before the sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) are celebrated. These sacraments are usually celebrated during the Easter Vigil or around Pentecost.

What about adult baptism?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is specially designed to assist adults in their preparation for Baptism. This process of Christian Initiation usually begins in the fall. The sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) are celebrated each year during the Easter Vigil.

Do the parents of the child have to be registered at St. Patrick's Parish?

Any Catholic living in the parish territory is considered to be a member of St. Patrick's Parish. However, Catholics are requested to "register" in our parish as a sign of their commitment to the parish faith community.

Catholics who live outside the parish territory, but normally participate in the Sunday Eucharist here, and who have been registered as parishioners for at least six months, may celebrate the Baptism of their child in our parish.

Catholics who have family members in our parish and wish to celebrate Baptism in our parish, may do so after obtaining a letter of permission from their proper parish priest and completing any required preparation programme.

Do parents have to be married in the Catholic Church in order to have their child baptized?

Children are never denied a share in the life of Christ! However, the parents' marital status has a great impact on their level of participation in the Christian community and on their ability to share their faith with their child.

If parents have not been married in the Catholic Church, they will be invited to meet with the pastor who can assist them in regularizing their marital status.

How do we request Baptism?

Simply call the parish office to arrange a meeting with one of our pastoral staff. During this meeting the form of preparation will be discussed and a date for Baptism will be set.

Do we have to participate in a baptismal preparation course?

At least one Catholic parent is required to participate in a brief preparation session which is usually offered in the church on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. Other parents and godparents are also most welcome to participate in the preparation session.

