

St. Joseph's Church

Baptism Preparation

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are answers to some questions that are commonly asked by families regarding Baptism.

Here at St. Joseph's Church we typically offer two types of Baptism. Families may choose to have their child baptized during a mass (one child) OR have their child baptized in a group setting on the first or third Sunday of the month at 11:30 am. We limit the number of children baptized in the latter ceremonies to five so as to not make the group too large. Expect these multi family ceremonies to last no longer than one hour.

Your arrival time to the church should be about 30 minutes before the ceremony is scheduled so as to allow proper time for the introductory rites. Pick out a section of pews at the front of the church near the baptismal font.

Many people ask whether there is a fee required for the Baptism. The answer is no, however the church will welcome an offering. Just as Joseph and Mary made an offering to the Temple when they presented Jesus after He was born, so an offering is acceptable as you may see fit, and may be given at the time of the Baptism, as the sponsor forms are given. And thank-you!

Pictures and videos are allowed at both types of baptismal ceremonies. We suggest giving this job to someone other than the parents or Godparents. If the child is being baptized during a mass, you may video tape the ceremony itself but should not tape the mass. Please be discreet and respectful if photographing or videotaping during the mass. In other words, save your big picture taking until after the mass. We recommend that families take pictures after the ceremony in front of the altar.

The church provides a small white shawl and candle for each child. If you have a family tradition or sentimental item (for example, a special candle or reading) that you would like to incorporate into the ceremony, please ask about this at the Baptism preparation night. Most of the time this is not a problem.

Sometimes people wonder about siblings being involved in the ceremony. We welcome your entire family to be around the baptismal font during the baptism.

After the ceremony, a Baptism certificate is presented to the family. We make every effort to spell each child's name correctly. If for some reason there is a misspelling please don't hesitate to let us know and we will gladly issue you a new certificate.

If you are not a member of St. Joseph's parish, but you seek baptism here for a child you may still have your child Baptized here. You will simply need written permission from your local parish priest.

Many people ask if their child's Godparents need to be Catholic. A Godparent assumes a spiritual relationship with the child and therefore should be a practicing catholic so as to fully encourage an active Christian life for the child. Only one God parent is required although you may have more. The Godparent must be an active Catholic who is fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), over 16 years of age and living the faith in a growing way. If you chose more than one sponsor for your child, the other may be a non catholic Christian person, known as a Christian Witness. All Sponsors should take an active interest in the Christian life and formation of their Godchild. If a Godparent is not a member of St. Joseph's church, they will need a sponsor certificate from their local parish priest. For more information on this please read the literature that has been provided for you at registration, or talk to the Priest or Deacon.

Families may rent the parish hall if they wish to use it after the baptismal ceremony or baptism at mass. Please inquire about this with the parish office as early as possible before baptism.

You may wonder if you actually have to attend the Baptism Preparation night. The answer is yes. This is an important time for both you and your child's Godparents to better understand your roles in the faith formation of your young child's life. It is a pre-requisite for Baptism. If you have any additional questions, please bring them with you to the baptismal preparation class.