



St. Anthony of Padua Church - Fresno, CA

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GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

As you are seeking the baptism of your child in the Roman Catholic Church, the following guidelines are presented to help you embark upon this journey of faith with Christ and his Church.

Basic Guidelines and Information for Infant (to include young children) Baptism (Code of Canon Law, cc. 867-868; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1251)

In order that a child be baptized, it is necessary that the parents consent, and that there is reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith.

GODPARENTS: A person may only have one or two godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, they must be male and female.

In order for someone to be eligible as a godparent they must be chosen by the parents, have the ability and the intention to fulfill the role, be at least 16 years of age, and be a confirmed Roman Catholic, who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist, is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including Marriage) and will be a good role model for the one being baptized, and be neither the father nor the mother of the child.

A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a “Christian witness” (not a godparent) provided that there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc. 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1255).

Baptismal Preparation in your Parish (Code of Canon Law, c. 851; Catechism of the Catholic Church 843)

While baptismal preparation varies from parish to parish, you will be invited to participate in a baptismal preparation session for parents and godparents(sponsors), before scheduling the baptism of your child. It is extremely important to take your faith-life seriously because, before God, you have taken on an awesome responsibility for the salvation of another—your own child. Your commitment and openness to baptismal preparation will help develop the faith-life of your child as they mature.

Sessions/Classes are held twice a month: (**FIRST MONDAY** and **THIRD THURSDAY**, both at 6:00pm, held in the St Francis Conference room –located behind the parish office). No pre-registration required.

Be sure to sign-in, upon arrival. Verification/ Certificate of completion is supplied the next day, afternoon, in the parish office along with a fee of \$15.00 per certificate, payable cash or check.

Per the Pastor, ***after parent(s) and godparents have completed a Baptism preparation class***, Parents are invited to follow closely the stages of preparation offered below:

- Pick-up a Baptismal Registration form (parish office), and
- Return the completed form along with required documents and baptismal fee. (at this time, scheduled dates for GROUP BAPTISMS will be provided).
- Payment of a \$25.00 Baptismal Fee, (class included, for parents; cash/check only).
- Provide Child's State Certified, Birth Certificate.
- Validated preparation class verification/supportive documents, if any.

Other Information (Catechism of the Catholic Church 857)

Are you living in a parish other than the one in which you wish to have your child baptized?

You are required to take your Baptismal Preparation in the parish in which you reside and then receive a testimonial letter from your Parish Priest to have your child baptized in another parish. This requirement respects the reality that pastors normally have sacramental jurisdiction only over their own parishioners. Therefore, when one seeks a sacrament outside of one's parish, the proper pastor's permission is necessary. Furthermore, the invitation to connect with one's own proper parish first is founded on the hope that the faith-life of the family and of the one(s) to be baptized will be lived in community and not in isolation.

All of the above information applies to Baptism of an infant or young child only. If you have a child to be baptized who has reached catechetical age/the age of reason (Grade 2 or 7 years), you and they will receive different preparation. Having sufficient understanding, the preparation will now be for the full complement of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

*****All administration is managed in the Parish Office, AFTER parents and Godparents have completed the preparation session/class, and paperwork is submitted to the parish office.**