

BAPTISM FAQs

When are baptisms celebrated?

Call the parish office for possible dates and times.

How do you schedule a baptism?

Parents first contact the parish office to inquire about scheduling a baptism. Attending a baptismal preparation class may be required, as well as completing the baptismal registration form.

Do parents have to take a baptism preparation class?

Parents must attend a baptism preparation class prior to a baptism if they have not attended a baptism preparation class within the past three years. Baptismal classes are scheduled through the parish office. If the parents live elsewhere, they may take baptismal classes at their home parish.

What if we already attended the preparation class with another child?

If you have attended the class in the last 3 years, there is no need to attend again. You simply need to complete the baptism registration form and contact the parish office to schedule your baptism.

What paperwork is needed for a baptism?

Parents must submit a baptismal registration form and provide the required godparent certificate of eligibility at least one month prior to the scheduled baptism.

What are the requirements for godparents?

The Church's teaching is that one Catholic godparent, who is at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic (i.e. baptized, confirmed, and have received Holy Communion), and is in good standing with the Catholic Church, is sufficient. If the person is not a member of the parish, a letter of good standing will be required from their home parish. There may be an additional Christian witness if that person isn't the same gender as the Catholic godparent and is a baptized person who belongs to a Christian denomination. To be clear, a Christian witness is not a godparent.

Do the godparents have to attend the baptism preparation class?

Godparents aren't required to attend our baptismal preparation class but they are encouraged to do so.

I've been asked to be a godparent and need to attend a class.

We welcome non-parishioners and godparents to attend a baptism preparation class. Following the class, we will mail you a certificate of completion. Classes are scheduled through the parish office.

Can you be re-baptized?

Baptism is a once-for-all sacrament that washes away original sin, gives sanctifying grace, and imparts a supernatural character upon the soul that makes a person a Christian. Even if you have not lived a Christian life until recently, if you were validly baptized then you are a Christian. Your status as a Christian doesn't depend upon how well you have lived. The proper sacrament to wash away personal sins you have committed since your baptism is confession. If you are in doubt whether you were baptized validly or baptized at all, one may be conditionally baptized (which means one would go through the rite of baptism, but the minister would say "If you are not baptized, I baptize you...").

Can a child be baptized if neither parent is Catholic?

This would need to be discussed with a priest prior to scheduling the baptism. A parent's consent and the presence of a founded hope that the child will be raised Catholic are what is necessary for the baptism to take place. To establish that there is a founded hope of the child's being raised Catholic, the priest you talk to will question and advise you.

May visiting clergy officiate the baptism?

Visiting clergy are welcome to preside over a baptism. He must make his intention known in writing to the pastor of the parish at the time of the scheduling of the baptism. If the priest or deacon resides outside the Diocese of Charlotte, he must mail his diocesan faculties from his Bishop to Bishop Peter J. Jugis at 1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203 with a notation of the date and location of the baptism. He may also email his faculties to Chancery@rcdoc.org.