

Baptism Information for Parents



- 1) Baptisms typically take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. One of them is held during a Mass and one is held at 1:00 PM (and does not include a Mass). A schedule of baptism dates is available upon request.
- 2) Both parents are required to have attended a baptism preparation class within the last three years. *Written verification of attendance is required. The Church affirms the important role of parents as role models of faithful Catholic living.
- 3) Godparents: A child may have no more than two legal godparents. According to canon law, if there are two, one must be male and one must be female. One godparent needs to be a baptized and confirmed Catholic who is at least 16 years of age. At least one godparent must have attended a preparation class either at SS. Peter & Paul parish or at a parish of their choice within the last three years. *Written verification of their attendance is required. A certificate of suitability as a godparent will also need to be provided from the parish where the godparent attends.

3) The Baptismal Ritual:

In keeping with the method most recommended by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, our children and infants are immersed at SS. Peter & Paul parish. Children arrive lightly dressed (white clothes at this point are not necessary) and at the proper time in the ceremony, the child will be undressed and wrapped in a towel. Just before immersion, you will unwrap the towel and your baby will be held under the arms, immersed in the water up to his/her neck, and once again wrapped in a towel. Older children may wear a swimsuit for the baptism ceremony (typically covered by a dress or shirt/pants) and they will walk into the baptistry. Following the immersion, the child can be dressed in a white baptismal outfit. **Please remember to bring a large white towel with you to the baptism ceremony.** If you are seriously uncomfortable with this method, your child can have the water poured on their head only.

- 4) Once you have seen the baptism schedule and determined a date to have your child baptized, here's what you need to do:
 - Please call Darcy in the parish office as soon as possible to TEMPORARILY reserve a spot, (916) 624-5827 ext. 211. Your spot becomes "permanent" when the requirements have been fulfilled and ALL of the paperwork has been turned in. This must occur AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM DATE or the baptism will need to be re-scheduled.**
 - Fulfill all Requirements, complete the paperwork, and submit paperwork to the parish office in person or via email to darcy.wharton@rocklincatholic.org no later than 10 days prior to the baptism date. The paperwork required is as follows:
 - The Request for Baptism Form** (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY as the information you provide will be used to complete the baptismal certificate). This form can be downloaded at www.rocklincatholic.org/baptism
 - *Class Attendance Verification (a written letter or form from the parish) indicating that at least one godparent has attended a Baptism preparation class within the last three years.**
 - *Class Attendance Verification (written letter or form from the parish) that both parents have attended a Baptism preparation class within the last three years.**
 - Godparent Certificate of Eligibility** from the parish which the godparent attends. The form can be downloaded at www.rocklincatholic.org/baptism

A donation to the Church is left to the discretion of the family and is not required.

***If you believe that parents or godparents attended a class at SS. Peter & Paul Parish within the last three years, please call Darcy to confirm. After checking our records, we will let you know if this requirement was fulfilled and/or whether the class must be repeated.**

- 5) We hope that your child's baptismal day is a sacred and special one for your family. We ask that you maintain the solemnity of the ritual by asking your family members and friends to fully participate in the baptismal ritual and to take pictures with minimal disruption. A crying room is available for the convenience of your family and friends' children.

If you have any questions regarding Baptism, feel free to call Darcy Wharton, Baptism Coordinator, at (916) 624-5827 ext. 211 or email darcy.wharton@rocklincatholic.org. **You will receive an email a few days prior to the scheduled baptism with last minute instructions.**