

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

When should I have my child baptized?

Parents are encouraged to baptize their child within the first few weeks after birth. Since there are several steps in the preparation process, it would be best to begin before your child is born. Even if your child is past the age of Infant Baptism (7+ years old), we would love to work with you to bring your child into sacramental union with the Church.

What if my child is older than 7 years of age?

Please contact the Office for information on getting your child registered for Religious Education.

Do both parents have to be Catholic?

No. The Church requires that there be at least one actively practicing Catholic parent.

Do the child's parents have to be married?

No, however, we would encourage you to contact us to pursue a Sacramental Marriage.

Do I need to be a member of Holy Trinity Parish?

We ask that you be a registered, active member of Holy Trinity Parish. This will help you and the Parish throughout your child's Sacramental journey.

What if we already attended a Baptism Class for another child?

If you have gone through the preparation process recently, you do not need to do it again. Simply fill out and submit the necessary paperwork.

When do Baptisms take place?

Baptisms may be scheduled on Saturdays following the 4pm Mass, or Sundays following the 11am Mass. If there is a special celebration, such as First Holy Communion, we may not be able to schedule the Baptism for that day.

Can we have a 'private' Baptism?

There is nothing 'private' about the Sacrament of Baptism. The Catholic teaching on this Sacrament focuses strongly on the communal nature of Baptism as the initiation into the Church community.

What should my child wear for the Baptism?

A white garment is traditional, signifying cleansing received in the waters of Baptism and the purity of beginning a new life in Christ.

Do I need to bring anything to the Baptism?

The Church will provide the Baptismal candle and any other items needed for the Baptism. If you have something you would like blessed to give to your child, the priest will do that for you.

Does it cost anything to have my child baptized?

We ask for a \$25 fee to cover Baptism Preparation. It is also customary to give a stipend to the priest for the celebration of your child's Baptism. This amount is at your discretion.

GODPARENTS

What are the requirements for being a Godparent?

According to the requirements of the Catholic Church's Canon Law (872-874), Godparents **MUST**:

- Be appointed by the parents or guardians
- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a fully initiated Catholic (having received Baptism, First Communion & Confirmation)
- If married, marriage is recognized as a valid Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church
- Be a practicing Catholic, leading a life in harmony with the faith (i.e. be a registered member of a parish, attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, regularly receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and Communion)

How many Godparents may I choose?

You may select 2 Godparents, although only one is required for Baptism. If one is chosen, he/she must be an actively participating Catholic (see requirements above). If two are chosen, one must be male and the other female. If you wish to honor a non-Catholic, Christian member of your family, they may stand as a Christian Witness alongside a qualifying Catholic Godparent.

What if a Godparent is unable to be at the Baptism?

The parents can designate a proxy to stand in for the absentee Godparent. If you know beforehand, please notify the Office with the proxy's name. If it happens the day of the Baptism, be sure to notify the priest, as it must be noted on the documentation.

Can I change Godparents later?

If the Godparent(s) do not follow through in their spiritual relationship, you may decide to engage other family or friends to support you and your child in this role. However, Godparents listed in the official Baptism Register can never be changed since they were the historical witnesses to the Baptism and entered into a permanent spiritual relationship with the baptized.

OTHER

I do not live within Holy Trinity's Parish boundaries, but want to baptize my child here. What is the process?

You must complete the Baptism Preparation process in the Parish in which you reside, and ask for a letter from your parish Pastor granting permission for your child to be baptized at Holy Trinity

I am a registered member of Holy Trinity Parish, but want to have my child baptized elsewhere. What is the process?

We will help you through the Baptism Preparation process and provide you with a letter granting permission for your child to be baptized at another Parish.