

Baptism FAQs

1. Do I have to go to baptism class? What will be covered?

Yes, unless you attended a class within the past two years, it is important for parents and godparents to attend our parish baptismal program. Parents and godparents are equipped with an understanding of the sacrament. The responsibility and commitment to the child's, as well as your own faith formation, becomes clearer. You will also learn what to expect at the ceremony and how you will be participating in the rites.

2. How do I sign up for the baptism classes?

- Go to formed.org/signup; click the 3rd button: I belong to a parish or organization
- Select your parish: Enter zip 90602 and select St Mary of the Assumption from the dropdown menu
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED
- Type in the search engine: Reborn
- Parents watch sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4. Godparents watch sessions 1, 2, 3, & 5.
- Make sure to answer the discussion questions for sessions 1-3.
- You can download the discussion questions at www.stmaryschurchwhittier.org
- All documents should be turned into the parish office before you view class sessions.

3. What do I bring to my child's baptism ceremony?

- Arrive at 8:45 a.m.
- Bring child dressed in clothing that allows access to the chest for anointing.
- Bring anything necessary for your child's comfort during the ceremony.

4. What are the requirements for godparents?

Your child must have at least one godparent to:

- Be a practicing Catholic, regularly attending Mass and living their Catholic faith.
- Be age 16 or older
- Have received ALL sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation)

5. How many godparents may there be?

Only two names are recorded in the Sacramental Register of St. Mary's Church.

a. If the second godparent is baptized Catholic, the above requirements must be met.

b. If the second godparent is a baptized non-Catholic Christian, they are referred to as a CHRISTIAN WITNESS, whose traditions profess belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

6. When can I begin taking baptism classes on Formed.org?

You may begin classes on Formed.org as soon as all necessary documents have been turned in the church office. Please see above information on how to sign up for baptism classes.

7. When are baptisms celebrated?

St. Mary's Church celebrates Baptisms on the 2nd Saturday (English) and 3rd Saturday (Spanish), normally at 9am. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. For exact dates, please contact St. Mary's Church at (562) 698-0107.

8. Do I have to pay the \$40 donation?

Our generous parishioners support all ministries of the Church, but this is a donation to offset our costs for the class and materials, such as the Formed.org subscription, candle and certificate. If this is a financial burden, please let us know.