



St. Cecilia Catholic Church
5105 SW Franklin Ave.
Beaverton, OR 97005
503-644-2619



Congratulations on the birth or adoption of your infant!

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of Christian initiation, along with First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, and incorporated into the Church, the body of Christ. Once received, Baptism is a definitive gift from God that never needs to be repeated. Through Baptism, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ and receive the promise of eternal life (see Romans 6:3-11).

Parish Membership

To give a reliable indication of their intention to bring their infant up Catholic, parents are required to be registered in the parish, attending Mass, and practicing their faith prior to baptism. Guests to the parish may have their children baptized here with Pastor approval.

Raising Children Catholic

Because of the importance of Baptism, there must be a founded hope that an infant will be brought up in the Catholic faith (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 868, §1). Parents are obligated, after Baptism, to bring their children to Mass each week, to make sure that their children are educated in the faith, and to make sure that they receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. For children 18 mos. of age and older, please contact the Faith Formation Office for enrollment in children's Sunday School classes. 503-644-2619 or www.stceciliachurch.org/faith-formation.

Baptism Preparation Class

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith (canon 774, §2). Therefore, parents are required to be instructed on the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism and the obligations that come from it (canon 851, 3°). To fulfill this requirement, **parents are asked to attend a "Baptism Preparation Class"** at 7:00 p.m. (location TBD). Godparents are also invited to attend. You can bring your child/children, but please know that there is no childcare provided. To register for the classes, please see our website for details <https://stceciliachurch.org/infantbaptism>

The Baptism classes are scheduled in consideration with all the other Parish activities in the Parish calendar so we strictly follow the dates since changing them will affect all the other activities scheduled at the beginning of the fiscal year. If you are unable to make the above listed classes, you are welcome to attend classes at a neighboring Catholic Church and bring record of your attendance at the classes.

Subsequent Children

If parents attended Baptism Classes within the last 4 years, it is not necessary to attend the class again.

Godparents

Parents may choose godparents for their children from among family and friends qualified to serve in that capacity. Parents may choose a godfather and a godmother, or just one godparent (canon 873). Godparents not only serve as a witness at the ceremony of Baptism but also assist the baptized in leading a Christian life (canon 872).

Therefore, Church law requires that godparents be people who are living the Catholic faith and meet the following qualifications (canon 874, §1):

- They should ordinarily be at least 16 years old.
- They must be Catholics who have received Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith, including attendance at weekly Mass.
- Parents of the child to be baptized may not serve as godparents.
- They must be married in the Church if they are in a marital relationship.

If godparents are not able to be present in person for the Baptism, proxies may be designated to stand in for them at the ceremony. Please make sure to mention this when registering your child.

Non-Catholic Witnesses

If only one godparent is chosen, parents may ask someone validly baptized in a non-Catholic community to serve as a witness to the ceremony, along with a Catholic godparent (canon 874, §2). The purpose of permitting a non-Catholic witness is to promote ecumenism. Fallen away Catholics may not serve as non-Catholic witnesses. No documents are required for a non-Catholic witness.

Just like the Baptism classes, the dates for Baptism are scheduled in consideration with all the other Parish activities in the Parish calendar so we strictly follow the dates since changing them will affect all the other activities scheduled at the beginning of the fiscal year and also the calendar of the priests. The priests assigned at St. Cecilia's already blocked all of the dates in their calendar so that they can celebrate the sacrament of Baptism as scheduled.

Sunday is the preferred day for baptism, since it is the day that Jesus rose from the dead (canon 856). At St. Cecilia, Baptisms are celebrated either between Sunday Masses or after a Saturday Vigil Mass at 6 p.m. The infant should be dressed in white in preparation for the ceremony.

Offerings

It is customary to make an offering to the parish or the priest/deacon on the occasion of a baptism (e.g., \$50-\$100). However, this is not required, especially for families in need. Please make sure to include "Baptism Donation" on the Memo line.