

Infant Baptism FAQs

Roman Catholic Diocese Of Fresno

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What are the requirements for baptism?

For a child to be baptized in the Catholic Church, there must be a basis for hope that the child will be raised in the Catholic faith. In practice, this generally means that at least one parent is Catholic. Like many dioceses in the United States, our Diocese requires parents and godparents participate in Baptism preparation before the baptism of their children. Each child brought forward for baptism must have a godparent who has completed their 3 Sacraments and is a practicing Catholic of age 16 or older.

At what age are children usually baptized?

There is no age limit, but infants are generally baptized before the age of 7. *If your child is 7 years of age or older, he/she must attend catechism classes, please call the parish office for information.*

What should the baby wear for the baptism?

A white garment is an ancient sign of the newly baptized Christian's new life in Christ. Your child can wear any clothing that is mainly white.

Requirements for Parents.

For an infant to be baptized it is required that parents give their consent and that there be a well-founded hope that the child be brought up in the Catholic religion. Canon 867, 872, 873-There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each. And 878 of the Code of Canon Law

What are the requirements for godparents?

- Must have received the 3 sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Must be at least 16 years of age or older.
- Must have the sacrament of Matrimony if it applies. (This would indicate that Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage or those living together without canonical marriage may be excluded from being lawful sponsors.) Please bring the original or a copy of the Matrimony certificate. Should you have any questions please let us know.

Cancellations.

"Please note that any changes to your scheduled baptism date, including cancellations, made within two weeks of the original date will incur a \$50 fee at the time the change is requested."

How do I register, what do I need?

- Please register a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the desired date (Space is limited and dates can change without notice).
- At least one parent or legal guardian must be present at registration.
- Provide the child's original Birth Certificate document to the office. (County Issued)
- Cash, Check, or Online: \$100.00 (**\$85 Tipton**) for Saturday group baptisms. \$50.00 for any additional children of the same parent or legal guardian. If you need a special time, please call the office.
- Provide names of qualifying Godparents. (**that meet the requirements**). **No godparents who live together without the sacrament of marriage. If they are married, the Church Marriage Certificate is required. If they are single, they must live as God intended.**

What are the dates for baptisms?

You can find the Schedules for the group baptisms in Spanish and English on our Parish website, all baptisms are at 8:30 AM (**10:00 am Tipton**). (please contact the office as dates and times may change).

When can we attend Baptism Class?

- Baptism classes are offered at least a week prior to the baptisms.
- A \$25.00 fee must be paid at the Parish Office when requesting proof of class attendance for baptism in another parish.
- Classes are usually valid for One (1) year from the date you attended class.

*Important Notes

- Please be on time on the day of your child's baptism. Tardiness may postpone the baptism.
- The \$25.00 fee applies to requested duplicates of certificates and any changes made after registration is completed.
- Certificates will be handed out on the date of the scheduled Baptism. If left behind, the office will hold it for 30 days. After 30 days, the document will be shredded and the parent must request a duplicate, the fee is \$25.00.
- Corrections on a certificate that may have errors made by parents or by the person who registered the child will be reissued, the fee is \$25.00.

Thank you and God bless you.

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