



Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Baptism of Infants

How soon should baptism occur? Parents are encouraged to have their child baptized within a reasonable period of time after birth. There is no absolute number of weeks or months when it should be done. Due consideration should be given to the ability of the mother to participate in the celebration.

When can a baptism be scheduled? Parents may not set a date for the baptism of their child before checking with the church in order to ensure that dates and clergy are available. Normally, baptisms are celebrated on the second Sunday of the month at the 10:30am Mass and on the fourth Saturday of the month at the 5:30pm Mass.

Who can be godparent/sponsor? These two terms are interchangeable; they refer to the role of the person not only in relation to the parent, but also in relation to the Christian community. There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each. Only one person who is at least 16 years old and a Catholic in good standing who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation is required to serve as godparent/sponsor. A person baptized in another Christian denomination may serve as a Christian witness with a Catholic sponsor. Parents may not serve as sponsors for their own children.

Is a baptismal gown required? Use of a gown is derived from the time when candidates were baptized by immersion and needed a piece of clothing as a cover, in some sense a towel. Overtime it has taken on Christian symbolism. Since baptism by immersion is not often practiced, the need is less in modern times. The rite includes it as one of the special symbols of the sacrament.

Is a donation to the church required? A freewill donation to the church may be made at the time of the baptism.