

Holy Baptism is the basis of the all Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.

[What do you ask of God's Church for your child?](#)

The first question of the Baptism ceremony is addressed to parents and reflects the fact that infant baptism is a decision of the parents. This decision arises out of serious reflection about your commitment to the Christian life. Why? Because Baptism is not an isolated event, it is your expression of your faith and the commitment on your part to raise your child in the family of the Roman Catholic Church. The focus is as much on you as it is on the child.

The Baptism of your child is also an event of the Church. As the above question indicates, you are requesting Baptism from "God's Church." "Church" in this sense refers not just to the priests, but also to the entire Christian community, manifested locally in the parish of Holy Redeemer.

Through communal celebrations of infant baptism, Holy Redeemer Parish expresses its joy in welcoming a new member, as well as its commitment to provide support and a community of faith for you and your child as you undertake the mission of living as a Christian family.

[What is the Catholic understanding of "godparent" \(i.e. sponsor\)?](#)

The Church views the "godparent" at a baptism as the one who assumes responsibility for the spiritual growth and development of the child in the Catholic faith. This does not necessitate that they take responsibility for the physical or temporal raising of the child should the parents be impeded from doing so. Their duty and responsibility relates primarily to the FAITH!

[How do I select godparents?](#)

Godparents must be **confirmed Roman Catholics in good standing** (e.g. valid marriage, regularly practicing the faith) and **at least 16 years of age**, who (if outside our parish) have written testimony to these facts from their pastor. The godparent takes on the responsibility to be a role model and teacher to the child in the practice of the Catholic faith. **NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO FULFILL THIS ROLE, AND THUS SADLY DISQUALIFY THEMSELVES FROM SERVING AS GODPARENTS.** Canon law requires only one godparent; two are customary. If you choose two, one must be male and the other must be female. Please understand that the Church does not permit more than two sponsors to serve at Baptism. Where the decision is made to have only one Catholic godparent (of either sex), a second person, of the opposite sex, may be designated as a "**CHRISTIAN WITNESS.**"

A "Christian witness" is a person **who has been baptized** into a Christian denomination (Protestant, Orthodox, etc.) but **is not and has never been a Catholic.** This person should also be a faithful, practicing Christian, and must provide written proof of their Baptism (e.g., a photocopy of their Baptismal certificate or letter from the church in which they were baptized). He/she serves as a witness to the event of the Baptism, but does not take the responsibility or title of "godparent," since it would be unfair and unrealistic to expect a non-Catholic, no matter how worthy a person, to take responsibility to raise a child in a **Faith** they do not profess, or know much about.

[How shall I prepare for my child's Baptism?](#)

The best way to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism is through prayer, reflection and study. To assist parents, **the parish requires attendance at a preparation session prior to the ceremony.** Our Baptism classes are generally held the second and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Padre Pio Center. Registration are received on Wednesdays between 6:00pm and 7:00pm in the parish Office by Father Carlo.

[Who may be baptized at Holy Redeemer Parish?](#)

The child (or, with permission, grandchild) of any registered member of the parish.

Whom shall I contact about having my child baptized?

Baptismal Registration are accepted every MONDAY between 5.45 & 6.45pm or by making an appointment with Father Carlo CALLING Monday through Friday 9.00am~1.00pm

What is necessary before a date for the Baptism can be set?

Before you can be assured of the date of Baptism, you must first provide the Parish Office with the following:

- If this is your first child, you must enroll in a Baptism class at Holy Redeemer Parish. If you participate at another parish, a certificate from that church must be presented with your other paperwork. If this is not your first child and you have been to a baptismal preparation class **,in the year**, here or elsewhere, you do not have to attend again.
- Baptismal registration information (*form found on website*). The information on this form must be clearly written or printed, as it is recorded on the baptismal certificate and in the parish record book. Please write the information exactly as you wish it to appear on the certificate.
- Letters from the pastor of each godparent testifying to their qualification to serve as sponsor for Baptism or proof of Baptism for one chosen to be a “Christian Witness.”
- If a grandchild does not reside in our parish, a letter of permission is required from the pastor of the parish in which the child and his/her parents actually are registered.
- Registration must be done at least a month prior the baptism

Only after all the above (registration form and godparent letters and letter from a pastor, where appropriate) are submitted to the Parish Office can we set the date for the Baptism!

How soon after birth should the Baptism take place?

It is never prudent to delay the Baptism of a child. Canon Law (i.e., 867) certainly encourages you to have your child baptized within the “first weeks after birth” (i.e., no more than six weeks). *Social reasons (e.g., availability of godparents, presence of family members) should never be allowed to cause the baptism to be postponed for several months.* Godparents may be represented by proxy, if necessary, rather than delaying the baptism. Your most important consideration above all else should be to have your child baptized.

When can we have our child baptized?

Baptisms are generally scheduled Saturdays at 12:00 noon and Sunday at 3:00pm, both at St. Mary’s and Our Lady of Libera worship sites. The list of the dates for both places can be found on the web site. **The date** for the baptism will be coordinated at your first meeting when you come to register the Child. No other date other than the one scheduled are permitted if not for serious reason (i.e. serious sickness of the child, one of the parents being in the service or similar).

Is there a fee for Baptism?

There is not a set fee for the baptism. A free will offering can be given for the maintenance of the Church and given in the proper envelope at the second baptismal preparation.

What should our baby wear? And what should I wear ?

In accord with tradition, babies must be dressed in white garments, which usually become a keepsake of the baptismal ceremony.

The parents, Godparents and guests should always remember while participating in a Church function to come dressed properly. No miniskirts, straps or similar will be allowed in Church.

May photographs be taken?

Photographs may be taken before or after the baptism. We ask you to refrain from flash photography during the ceremony for the comfort of the baby.

Please remember that the Church SHOULD NOT BE USED as a photo studio after the celebration.