

FAQS for Baptism

Can I have my child baptized if I am not a registered parishioner at any of the All Saints Catholic Community churches?

Yes. You don't have to be registered at the parish, especially if you live outside of Wexford-Missaukee Counties, but still have some connection to our parishes. However, if you do live in the area we do ask that you consider registering with the Parish Office and become part of our Catholic community.

How much does it cost to baptize my child?

We do not charge for sacramental celebrations. Families may donate to the parish to help cover any of the incidental costs of the preparation and celebration of Baptism. Any donations given directly to the priest after the celebration of baptism will be directed to the parish unless otherwise specified.

When should parents contact the Parish Office about baptism for their child?

We invite parents to schedule their initial visit with parish staff as early as possible in the pregnancy. Participating in the preparation process during pregnancy allows appropriate time to discern whether baptism should or should not be celebrated once the child is born. Remember, the cornerstone of Baptism is the hope that the child will be raised in the Catholic faith.

Are parents required to participate in the online education before their children are baptized?

Parents are to be properly prepared for living out the commitment they are making to raise their child in the Catholic faith. It's why parents are required to complete the 3-episode Reborn Series on FORMED.org. If you have any concerns about the commitment of formation and preparation, do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

Are both parents required to complete the formation process?

It is an awesome opportunity for both parents to be present and involved in the formation process together as part of living out the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. We hope that parents make every effort to go through this process with an open mind and heart. If there are any extraordinary circumstances, please contact us at the Parish Office.

Are godparents/sponsors required to complete the online baptism course before their godchild is baptized?

The role of a godparent/sponsor is very valuable in the faith formation of a baptized child. Therefore, godparents/sponsors must be prepared to fulfill their roles in the Baptismal Rite and assist parents in raising the child in the practice of the Catholic faith. We highly recommend and strongly encourage that the godparent/sponsor also watch Reborn-The Gift of Godparents on FORMED.org.

I am to be a godparent at another church that requires classes. Can I take godparent classes at St. Ann?

St. Ann does not require godparents to attend classes, so we do not offer godparent classes. You may however, watch the entire Reborn Series on Baptism. This series is found on FORMED.org.

Do parents and godparents need to attend a preparation program again when another child is to be baptized?

Once parents complete the Baptism Formation Process for their first child, they need not attend the entire program again. However, the Initial Visit would still be necessary to plan the celebration.

Can a non-Catholic Christian be a godparent/sponsor?

No. Only a practicing Catholic who meets the qualifications can qualify as a godparent or sponsor. However, if a Catholic godparent is present, a non-Catholic, baptized Christian who participates in the Baptism and accepts responsibility for helping raise the child to live a Christian life can participate in the Rite of Baptism as a "Christian Witness" (and so reflected on the baptismal certificate).

Can a brother or sister be a godparent/sponsor?

Brothers or sisters of a child to be baptized may be godparents/sponsors providing that they are 16 years old, have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function, be a Confirmed Catholic, and have celebrated their First Communion. They may not be bound by any canonical penalty (i.e., such as married outside the Catholic Church). Specific qualifications of godparent/sponsors should be discussed during your Initial Visit.

How should inter-church marriages (marriage between a Catholic and a Christian of another denomination) or inter-faith marriages (between a Catholic and non-Christian) be handled during Baptism Preparation?

If parents were married in the Catholic Church, it is the Catholic parent who is obligated to fulfill the promise of raising their children within the Catholic faith and our Church. Therefore, only the Catholic parent is obligated to attend Sacramental Preparation classes.

However, our Parishes welcome and encourage full participation of the non-Catholic spouse in the preparation and celebration of their child's Baptism, inclusive of renewing his or her baptismal promises.

Take care to ask necessary questions during your Initial Visit about raising a child in a mixed religion household if you and your spouse feel you need more specific answers.

If the parents are not validly married in the Catholic Church, can the child be baptized?

There is nothing that prevents a child born to parents who are not validly married in the Catholic Church from being baptized. Our Parishes welcome parents' decision to baptize their child in the Catholic faith. In interested, parents may wish to discuss having their marriage convalidated (recognized) by the Catholic Church. That's another topic to discuss with the priest.

If the godparents are not validly married in the Catholic Church, can they be godparents?

Chosen godparent(s) do not need to be married people. However, if the chosen godparent is married (whether to another Catholic or to a non-Catholic) then they must be married in the Catholic Church in order to be chosen as a godparent.

If the parents are not married, can the child be baptized?

Absolutely. Nothing prevents a child born to parents who are not married from being baptized within the Catholic church provided that the parent(s) of that child is/are properly disposed, has/have been appropriately prepared, understand(s) the responsibilities that come with having the child baptized and is/are willing to fulfill the commitment undertaken to raise the child in the Catholic faith.

If you would like to discuss preparing for marriage, please contact the Parish Office.

Can a family priest or deacon baptize our child?

If you have completed Baptism Preparation requirements for your local parish and you can provide documentation proving such, please have your family priest/deacon fill out the proper paperwork and send it to the Parish office. After approval of all documentation, a member of the Parish staff will contact you - either by email or phone - to schedule your Rite of Baptism. Contact the Parish Office for the appropriate paperwork and more information.

Why is a birth certificate required for issuing a Baptism Certificate?

The Parish must be able to properly identify and verify the child's birth information (i.e. parent's names, legal name of child, custody, etc.) when preparing the Baptism Certificate.

What if I don't have a birth certificate yet?

It can take up to 3 months after the child is born to receive the birth certificate. Upon obtaining the birth certificate, please email or drop off a copy of the certification to the Parish Office prior to scheduling the baptism.

Contact St. Ann Parish Office at 231-775-2471 if you have additional questions.