

Frequently Asked Questions about the Sacrament of Baptism

Who can be a Godparent for Baptism?

Accepting the role of godparent for either a child or an adult is both an honour and a responsibility. The term “sponsor” is often used when an adult is being baptised. Godparents promise to be good examples in living the Catholic faith and the values associated with the teachings of Jesus.

How do I arrange to have my child baptised?

Once you have decided to have your child baptised into the Catholic Church the next step is to [make contact](#) with your local Catholic parish. You will be asked to complete some forms and arrange a date for the Baptism.

What happens during the Baptism?

The family will gather around the Baptism font, which holds the water used for Baptism. The priest or deacon asks the parents what name they have given to their child and what do they ask for their child and they reply, "Baptism". Later, the parents make Baptism promises on behalf of their child. These promises are based on the Apostles.

Can non-Catholics be Godparents? If not, can we choose not to have Godparents?

It is necessary to have one godparent who is a Catholic. Another Christian person may witness the Baptism along with the Catholic godparent.

Why do we have a Baptism candle?

The candle, lit from the Easter candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the new believer. In Christ, the baptised are "the light of the world".

Why do those being baptised wear white?

White is symbolic of innocence. Through Baptism our sins are washed away, and we become ‘clean’ because of Jesus Christ.

Can a person be baptised twice?

It is through the Sacrament of Baptism that we enter into the Christian life. Baptism is the “gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213*).

Who can be baptised?

The Sacrament of Baptism is open to all who desire to enter into the Christian life. Parents may choose for their child to be baptised according to the instructions given in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Can our child still be baptised if one or both parents are not Catholic?

Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Church. Bringing children into the family of God, the Church, requires parental consent, even if one parent is not a Catholic.

What about adults wanting to be Baptised?

For adults who wish to be baptised, a longer period of time is given for coming to understand our Catholic faith in more depth and for discernment on this decision. Adults generally receive the sacrament of Baptism with the other sacraments of initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist, in what we call the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).