

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK

BAPTISM GUIDELINES

For children and infants age six and under, baptisms at the Cathedral take place after parents have attended a Baptism preparation class. Children age seven and above need to prepare for full initiation into the church at the Easter Vigil and need to take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children. Families of these children will be asked to participate in a program of preparation.

To have a child baptized at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick:

1. The parents of the child must be registered members of the Cathedral of Saint Patrick for the baptism to take place at the Cathedral.
2. The parents of the child must attend a baptism preparation class. For parishioners of the Cathedral, the baptism preparation classes are held the third Sunday of every month at 10:00 am. Attendance at the baptism preparation class is not required for Cathedral parishioners if the parents have attended a class within the past two years.



SCHEDULING A BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday after the 11:30 PM Mass. Saturday baptisms are possible if there are no weddings. To schedule a baptism, call St. Patrick's parish office at (704) 334-2283. When scheduling a baptism, the following information may be needed:

- A completed **Baptism Registration Form**. If the parents have attended the Cathedral's baptism preparation class, they will complete the form at the class and the form will be handed into the parish office. If the parent wasn't required to attend the baptism preparation class, they can download the Baptism Registration Form from the parish website.
- It is customary to provide a momentary gift for the clergy member (priest or deacon) who performs the baptism. The donation can be given directly to the clergy member. The gift amount is up to the discretion of the family.

Baptism is the gate to the other sacraments. It ushers us into the divine life, cleanses us from sin, and initiates us as members of the Christian community. Baptism has six primary effects. In addition to the removal of guilt for both Original Sin and personal sin, Baptism also removes the remission of all punishment that we owe because of sin, both temporal (in this world and in Purgatory) and eternal (the punishment that we would suffer in hell). Baptism also provides an infusion of grace in the form of sanctifying grace (the life of God within us) and provides the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the three theological virtues. Additionally, Baptism allows us to become a part of the Church which is the Mystical Body of Christ on earth and enables participation in the sacraments, the priesthood of all believers, and the growth in grace. Baptism seals the Christian with an indelible spiritual mark (the "character of Baptism") which sin cannot erase.

BAPTISM REGISTRATION RECORD

Fax to (704) 377-6403 or mail to St. Patrick Cathedral / 1621 Dilworth Rd East / Charlotte, NC 28203

FAMILY INFORMATION

NAME OF CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Religion of Father: _____

MOTHER'S NAME: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden)

Religion of Mother: _____

PARENT'S WEDDING DATE: _____

CATHOLIC PARISH WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED: _____

City: _____ State: _____

WAS YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED PRIVATELY? _____ WAS YOUR CHILD ADOPTED? _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

GODPARENT: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

PARISH WHERE REGISTERED: _____

GODPARENT: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

PARISH WHERE REGISTERED: _____

CHRISTIAN WITNESS: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

PARISH WHERE MEMBER: _____

It is sufficient to have just one Catholic Godparent but there may be two, one male and one female. The Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing who has been confirmed & is 16 or older. A Catholic who is not in good standing cannot be a Godparent or a Christian Witness. The Catholic parish where the person is registered will need to provide a statement that the sponsor is eligible.

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community can be a witness of the baptism but only together with a Catholic Godparent.

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TO BE COMPLETED BY PARISH OFFICE

CLASS DATE: _____ INSTRUCTOR: _____ BAPTISM DATE: _____