

What Are the Requirements for Infant Baptisms for Parents?

Below are the general Catholic guidelines for infant Baptism and the responsibilities of godparents. Each point is grounded in Canon Law and universal Church teaching.

- 1. Infant baptism is for children from birth until generally their 4th–7th birthday.**
- 2. All children who are baptized must have at least one godparent. Please see Guidelines for Infant Baptism for more information.**
- 3. Parents must intend to raise the child in the Catholic Faith.**
- 4. Infants are usually baptized in the parish of at least one parent. For baptisms elsewhere, a permission letter from your pastor may be needed.**
- 5. Child's Birth Certificate: Parents must provide the child's original certified birth certificate - the one issued by the State Department of Health - not the hospital copy. A photocopy will be made by the parish secretary, and the original returned to the parents.**
- 6. The parents' marriage certificate should be presented; Baptism cannot be denied even if the parents are not married in the Church.**
- 7. Each parent (should) attend a Baptismal Preparation Class.**
- 8. All paperwork must be submitted prior to a date for the baptism being scheduled. Baptisms at St. Frances Cabrini are usually held the first and third Saturdays of each month, at 11:00 AM, and are usually performed by Deacon Tom Januszka.**