

GUIDELINES FOR INFANT BAPTISM

ST. FRANCES CABRINI CATHOLIC CHURCH

At St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, we offer opportunities for your child under the age of 7 to receive the Sacrament of Baptism through your participation in a preparation class and a community celebration. Once all requirements have been met, including completion of the baptism class and submission of paperwork for the baptism certificate, you will be able to sign up for one of our scheduled community baptisms, or you may request a Letter of Delegation (permission) from the parish secretary to have your child baptized at another parish. The following information will guide you through this process:

INFANT BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Baptism Class:** Parents are required to attend a preparation class before a Baptism date can be set and are encouraged to do so before the birth of their child (see “Baptism Preparation Class” below).
2. **Child’s Birth Certificate:** Parents must provide the child’s original certified birth certificate issued by the State Department of Health (not the hospital copy). A photocopy will be made and the original returned.
3. **Letter of Delegation (Permission):** Parents who reside within another parish’s boundaries may have their child baptized at St. Frances Cabrini with written permission from their pastor and proof of completion of a Baptism Preparation Program. The letter must be on church letterhead with the parish seal. Letters of Delegation to have your child baptized elsewhere are available upon request from the parish office. Please allow a few days for preparation and provide all necessary details (child’s name, church information, and contact details).
4. **Godparents:** At least one Godparent is required; however, the traditional Godfather and Godmother are encouraged. Godparents must:
 - Be practicing Roman Catholics who faithfully attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
 - Be at least 17 years of age and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion; if married, they must be married in the Catholic Church or the marriage has been Convalidated (Blessed by the Church).
 - Not be the parents of the child.
5. **Documentation:** All required documents must be submitted before a baptism date can be scheduled.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:

1. Classes are currently offered by Deacon Tom. Please visit the parish website or contact the office for registration details.
2. Parents who have completed a Baptism Preparation Program within the past five years are not required to attend again.
3. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of the class. Please submit a copy to the parish office and keep one for your records.

TO SET A BAPTISM DATE:

1. All required documents must be submitted before scheduling. Once completed, contact the parish office to arrange your child’s baptism. Dates are assigned based on availability.
2. Baptism times and schedules will be provided by the parish office and are subject to change.
3. There is no fee for the Sacrament of Baptism; however, a customary stipend for the celebrant is appreciated.