

Baptism FAQs

My husband and I are both Catholic, but were not married in the Catholic Church. Is this an issue?

It is not an issue that you did not get married in the Catholic Church. We need one parent and one godparent to be Catholic. An additional person may serve as a witness to the Baptism.

What are the requirements of choosing a godparent?

At least 16 years old

Fully initiated Catholic (having the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)

Not bound by any canonical penalty

Leading lives of faith befitting the role to be undertaking

Not the parents of the child

Strictly, a child needs only one godparent for Baptism, male or female, but may have one of each

How many godparents may I have?

A child needs only one Catholic godparent for Baptism (male or female) but may have two (one male and one female). If one is not Catholic, but is a baptized Christian, then they may serve as a Christian Witness, so long as the other is Catholic.

Do both godparents have to be present at the Baptism?

No, because only one godparent is necessary, we only need one godparent (must be Catholic) to be present at the Baptism. If they cannot be at the Baptism, we can have a proxy stand in for them.

Is there a certain age the baby must be in order to be baptized?

We baptize newborns to age 6. Once the child reaches the age of 7, the Baptism is then celebrated with the Rite of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

What is the formation class?

The formation class is education for parents. It explains the Sacrament of Baptism and what your role as parents includes when you ask for the Sacrament of Baptism for your child. The formation class is also a rehearsal for the Communal Baptism so that you know what to do when you have your child baptized. It is about 1.5-2 hours long.

If I have already had a child baptized, do I still need to attend the formation class?

If you had your child baptized at the Cathedral AND attended the formation class, then no. If your child was baptized at a different parish or you never attended the Cathedral's formation class, then Yes. The class serves as an important rehearsal in addition to formation for the parents.