

Baptism FAQs

How old should my infant be to be baptized?

Under ordinary circumstances, parents should see to the Baptism of their infants within the first few weeks: “As soon as possible after birth, even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child and to be themselves prepared for it.” (Canon #876) The phrase “within the first weeks after birth,” may be interpreted to allow for special family considerations, like allowing the parents and other family members time to adjust to the new arrival and scheduling the participation of extended family and friends who may have to travel some distance. Baptism should never be unnecessarily delayed.

What if my child is no longer an infant – does that change what we need to do?

A child who has not yet celebrated their seventh birthday is considered an “infant” in regards to baptism within the Catholic Church. As long as your child is less than seven years of age, the process and requirements are the same. Depending on the understanding and maturity of your child, this might be a wonderful opportunity for them to share in the preparation for the sacrament.

If your child is seven or older, we will work with you to find the best pathway that leads your child to the sacrament of Baptism – and the other sacraments – and will depend on the age of the child. In this case, please contact McKinzie Murley at sacraments@stfrancis Lansing.org

Must you be a registered member of St. Francis de Sales to have your child baptized here?

Yes, you must be a registered and active member of the parish. If you are registered at a different parish, you must obtain a letter of permission from your parish priest granting you permission to have your child baptized at St. Francis de Sales.

Are there Baptismal preparation classes for parents? If so, when are they?

Yes, there are two parish sessions and one home session. To register, please complete [this form](#).

Do both parents have to attend a Baptismal preparation class?

It is ideal for both parents to attend, but if work schedules or family dynamics prevent this, we welcome the participation of at least one parent. Godparents are also welcome to attend, but are not required.

Do we have to register for the Baptismal preparation class, or can we just show up?

Classes are not scheduled in advance. Once your registration form has been received, McKinzie will contact you to coordinate meeting times.

Do we have to complete the Baptismal preparation class before we can set the date for the celebration of Baptism?

The date can be set ahead of time to allow for out-of-town family and guests to attend. However, all preparation classes must be complete and paperwork received before the baptism can take place.

I am Catholic, but my spouse is not. May our child be baptized in the Catholic Church?

If one of the parents is a practicing Catholic, as long as the other parent is in agreement, the child can be Baptized. There must also be a well-founded expectation that the child will be brought up in the Catholic tradition.

Are there costs associated with the Baptismal preparation or the ceremony?

There are no fees for the preparation program or the sacrament itself. However, many parishioners like to give a monetary gift at the time of their child's Baptism. Father Bala is always happy to receive a donation towards St. Mary's India – his orphanage.