

Church of Saint Ann – Baptism Procedures

2018



Baptism for Children 0-5 Years

What is the Sacrament of Baptism?

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Catholic Church, a welcoming of your child into the Christian family. Through Baptism, we receive the grace of God and become sharers in the Church's mission.

When are children baptized at Saint Ann?

Baptisms celebrated at a ceremony are scheduled on the first and third Sundays of each month at 2 p.m. with the exception of Easter Sunday. (2018)

Baptisms held within the context of Sunday mass are scheduled quarterly during the 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. services. Two out of the three masses will be reserved for Baptisms; however, only one child will be baptized per mass. The dates for 2018 include: January 28, April 29, July 29 and October 28.

During the season of Lent, there are no Baptisms celebrated at Saint Ann's.

Baptism and registered members of Saint Ann

Only registered parishioners of the Church of Saint Ann may have their children baptized at Saint Ann. Parish Registration Forms are available on the parish website, at the Welcome Desk in the Faith Development Center, or at the doors the Church.

Exceptions to the aforementioned policy:

If good reason allows, and the approval of the pastor or pastoral associate is given, exception may be made for a grandchild or close relative of a parishioner. If that is the case, the parents must obtain permission (a formal letter) from the pastor of their parish to celebrate the baptism at Saint Ann.

Is there a cost to have my child baptized?

Parents are encouraged to make a donation to the Church on the occasion of their child's Baptism. We do not charge a fee for a baptism.

What is the process to have my child baptized?

In order to best prepare for baptism, parents baptizing their first child are asked to call the Parish Office and register for the Baptismal Preparation class. It is advisable to attend the program early in the pregnancy. Call the Parish Office at (609) 882-6491 to register for the class. Sessions are held on the second Tuesday of certain months. The 2018 schedule includes January 9, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, August 14, October 9 and November 13th.

All information regarding the Sacrament of Baptism can be found on the parish website under the title "Sacraments". There are also packets available at the Faith Development Center Welcome Desk.

- Review Baptism information on the parish website
- Register early to attend a Baptism Preparation session (if it is your first child to be baptized)
- Complete the registration form including your choice of date and time for the Baptism celebration.
- Send your godparent eligibility forms to the parish office

What if my child is older (over 5)?

Because older children are capable of learning about their faith, those who have already had their sixth birthday or begun first grade should be enrolled in religious instruction before being baptized either through Catholic school or in our parish Religious Education Program. Please call the Religious Education Office at (609) 882-1212 for information about religious instruction. Parents requesting baptism of children six (6) years of age and older should call the parish office to arrange for a separate date and time for the baptism of their child.

Procedures to Prepare Your Child for Infant Baptism

Four Step Process

I. Godparents

The selection of the child's godparents is an important decision and should be made with the child's growth in faith in mind. You may choose one Godfather and/or one Godmother.

Godparents accept the responsibility, along with you, of providing for the faith formation of your child in the Catholic Church. Their beliefs and life style should reflect the responsibility they are accepting. Please adhere to the criteria for selecting a Godparent.

SELECTING GODPARENTS

In keeping with Church law, the following are guidelines for Godparents:

- Each Catholic godparent must be a Catholic in good standing (must be registered in their parish, in a Church recognized marriage, confirmed in the Catholic church, at least sixteen (16) years of age).
- Each Catholic godparents should provide a "Sponsor Eligibility Form" prior to the baptism. The godparent can obtain this form from the parish where they are registered.
- Non-Catholic Christians by be a Christian witnesses, *as long as a Catholic godparent is also present*. The non-Catholic witnesses do not need to provide eligibility forms.
- If there are two godparents, one must be a mail and the other a female. You cannot have two women or two men.

It is possible that the godparents would not be able to attend the Baptism. Anyone may stand in as a proxy for the godparent. Please contact the parish office to let us know if there is to be a proxy.

II. Baptismal Preparation Class

We ask that parents who are baptizing their first child to attend a class prior to setting the date for their child's baptism. The purpose of this class is to gain a fuller appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism, and what it means to raise a child in the Catholic faith. This class takes place on the second Tuesday of each month (with the exception of February, July, September and December 2018) at 7 p.m. Godparents are welcome, but are not required to attend a class. Registration is required for the baptismal preparation class, but no need to bring anything with you. Parents are welcome to bring their infants. In case if inclement weather or any other emergency, you will receive a call if the class is cancelled. This information will also be on the website.

Baptism Preparation Team

Yvonne and Mark Daniel

Megan and Rich Tepper

Katie and Dylan Carroll

Karen and Andrew Craven

Eileen and Sean Sheehy

III. Registration

Parents complete the Registration Form and return it stating the date selected for the Baptism of the child. We ask that you set a date at least two week prior to the baptism. The parish office will call you to confirm the date and time – a date and time must be confirmed by the church before it is considered set.

IV. Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

If you have a friend or family member who is a priest or deacon from outside the parish whom you wish to perform the sacrament, he is most welcome. However, the priest or deacon needs a Letter of Suitability from his diocese/community if he is not a member of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey. This document should be sent to the Church of Saint Ann prior to the celebration.

