

Frequently Asked Questions/Baptism

1. Why is there a baptism preparation class?

Baptism is a sacrament and a major event in the life of your child, and so careful preparation is important. Baptism has often been called the “doorway” to life in Christ and His Church. As the first of the seven Sacraments, it is a profound encounter with Jesus Christ. Christ explicitly tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations” and to “baptize them” so this is no small matter! The preparation class seeks to inform parents/Godparents’ minds and hearts about what the sacrament of Baptism is and how to truly live it as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

2. When and where is the baptism preparation class held?

Please call Jill (St. Michael’s) or Flo (St. Mary’s) at the parish center to schedule your child for baptism and to rsvp for an upcoming class. These classes are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, in the St. Michael’s Board Room.

3. What can we expect to learn from the baptism preparation class?

Parents and godparents will be given practical guidance in introducing their small children into our Catholic faith, and we will discuss the ways in which parents live out their own baptismal call through family life. We will also discuss the rich meaning behind the sacrament of baptism and the ritual, signs and symbols of the sacrament.

4. Who has to attend the baptism preparation class?

We require parents baptizing their first child to attend a baptism preparation class so as to fully understand the responsibilities they take on with the baptism of their child. Parents who have already participated in a baptism class (here) in the past three years for the baptism of an older child are not required to attend the class, but are welcome to do so. Godparents are also welcome and encouraged to attend this class when possible, but not required to do so.

5. What are the requirements to be a godparent?

It is only necessary that one godparent be chosen for your child. If, however, you choose to have two godparents, one must be male and one must be female. At least one godparent must (a) be a baptized Catholic, (b) who is at least 16 years of age, (c) have already received First Eucharist, and (d) has received the sacrament of Confirmation and is e) actively practicing their faith by regularly attending Mass and frequent reception of the sacraments. If married, their marriage must be recognized as sacramental by the Church (held in a Catholic Church)

A baptized non-Catholic may stand in as Christian witness along with a Catholic godparent.

6. When is the sacrament of baptism celebrated at the Church of St. Michael?

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month (following the 11:00 Mass) at St. Michael’s and the 3rd Sunday of the month (following the 10:30 Mass) at St. Mary’s. Please call your parish office to schedule the baptism of your child.

7. Is there a fee for baptism?

The Church does not charge for the sacraments, so there is no fee. Expenses for baptismal candles, garments, etc. are covered by the parish, so your weekly support via the collection (Sunday tithe) is crucial and greatly appreciated.