

Requirements to Baptize

St. Patrick Church

1. **What are the requirements to Baptize?**
 - Civil birth certificate of the child
 - Proof of preparation classes
 - Catholic Church marriage certificate

2. **After the preparation classes what should I do?** Go to the parish office and file the necessary documents for the Baptism celebration.

3. **What requirements are needed to be godparents?**
 - Be older than 16 years
 - Be confirmed
 - Being married in the Catholic Church or being single (No civil marriages or consensual unions)
 - Give Christian life testimony
 - If divorced you can be a godparent while living alone and giving an example of a good Christian. Please submit proof of divorce or send it to the parish office, fax number is (815) 965-0086
 - If single, you must take an oath to confirm you do not live with someone in an illicit union

4. **Do the godparents have to be a couple?** It is not necessary. It may be the child's father's uncle and the mother's grandmother as long as they can provide and meet the requirements for godparents.

5. **Are two godparents needed for the baptism of the child?** No, although it is a good old custom, the church requires minimum one godparent.

6. **If we do the pre-baptism preparation class in another parish or in Mexico is it valid?** Yes, but you must bring proof of attending preparation class and present it at St. Patrick's Church.

7. **If godparents come from another country what do we have to do?** They must perform the pre-baptismal preparation class in the parish to which they belong and confirm they are married by faxing or bringing the Catholic marriage certificate along with proof of pre-baptismal preparation class. The fax number is St. Patrick (815) 965- 0086.

8. **If godparents come from another parish or another state what do we have to do?** Provide proof of pre-baptismal preparation class and bring their marriage certificate. (Do not forget the requirements to be a godparent, see # 3.)

9. **If parents come from another parish or another state what do we have to do?** Submit to St. Patrick's office the pastor's permit and proof of pre-baptismal preparation class.

10. **If I come alone as parent or godparent do I have to pay?** Yes you paid for the pre-baptismal preparation class and baptism certificate of your child or godchild. In some cases it can also be for the proof of the pre-baptismal preparation class when you need to go elsewhere to baptize.

11. **If the godparent is in another country, in another state, or had an emergency and can't be present on the day of the baptism celebration what do we have to do?** You may appoint a substitute godparent who will accompany and replace only in the baptism celebration of your son/daughter. To choose a replacement do not forget the requirements to be a godparent. Baptismal certificate will not have the name of the substitute godparent, only of the godparent that could not attend the baptism ceremony.

12. **Who do I give the blue card to?** It will only be given to those who meet all the requirements and must be handed to the priest on the day of the baptism celebration.
13. **Must the child be younger than seven years?** If the child has more than seven years he/she will have to attend catechism classes before being baptized. Please call the parish at (815) 965-9539 for info. on class date and time.
14. **If I attend the pre-baptism preparation class and I am baptizing in another parish what do I have to do?** You must request proof of attendance of the preparation class at the parish office.

Important

If we show up the day of the baptism celebration and we have not met the requirements no baptism will be held.

When are the Baptism Preparation Classes

English = 1st Saturday of the Month @ 5:30 p.m.

Spanish = 1st Saturday of the Month @ 5:00 p.m.

When are the Baptism dates at St. Patrick Church

English = 2nd Saturday of the Month @ 11:00 a.m. or Sunday Immediately after 11:15 a.m. Mass (1:00 p.m.)

Spanish = 3rd, 4th or 5th Saturday of the Month @ 11:00 a.m. or Sunday Immediately after 11:15 a.m. Mass (1:00 p.m.)

Presentations

English and Spanish = 1st Saturday of the Month @ 11:00 a.m.

What do I have to bring on the day of the Baptism

- *Bring the child on time. It is important to come to the celebration when you are told, that is, be punctual because many come to baptize without the child.*
- *White dress for child.*
- *Baptismal candle.*
- *Shell and towel. (Towel must be absorbent, no waterproof towels.)*
- *Religious objects: rosaries, sacred medals, etc... the priest blesses them at the end of baptism.*

Important Recommendations for the day of the Celebration

- *Turn off cell phones, pagers, or electronic games during church.*
- *No gum, food, or drinks.*
- *Modest clothing is recommended, maintaining the dignity of baptized Christians.*
- *For photos and videos it is recommended to speak with the priest before the celebration.*
- *Advised to be well confessed to keep the most important sense of the celebration.*
- *Parents are encouraged to talk and ensure the good behavior of their children in the church. We remind you that this is the house of God and our behavior should be the best.*