

Celebrating Baptism at Transfiguration Parish

Thank you for inquiring about the Sacrament of Baptism for your child. We are pleased to welcome your son/daughter into our Faith family. In order to assist our families, we offer this “Frequently Asked Questions” sheet.

What do we need to do to have our child baptized?

After you contact the parish office, you will be sent a Baptism packet which contains a registration form, this FAQ sheet, and a parish registration form. If you are not registered members of the parish, we need you to officially join us by completing the parish registration form.

Please complete the Baptism registration form and return it the parish office in advance of the date you have chosen for Baptism.

Where do we celebrate Baptism?

Families have the choice of any of our three worship spaces – St. Mary Church, Sacred Heart Church, St. Mark Church - for the celebration of Baptism.

When do we celebrate Baptism?

The usual day and time for Baptism is Sunday at 12:30 p.m. If you need another day or a date that differs from our available days, please contact the parish office.

Who celebrates the Baptism?

Both our pastor, Fr. Dave Costa, and our deacon, Deacon Joe Regali, are the usual celebrants. If your family is friendly with another Catholic priest or deacon or has an ordained family member, he is more than welcome to celebrate the Baptism. Please let us know when you register for Baptism if you are inviting another priest or deacon.

What about godparents?

Traditionally, families chose one man and one woman to serve as sponsors or godparents for their child. According to Church rules, you may not have two men or two women. You may chose to have only one sponsor – either male or female.

There are specific guidelines in Church law for godparents:

- They must be at least 16 years old;
- They must be fully initiated in the Church (celebrated Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation);
- If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church;
- Sponsors should be attending weekend Mass on a regular basis.

Each godparent will need a signed “Sponsor Form” from the parish where they attend Mass. The godparent should ask their parish priest to sign the form. If there is a problem getting a signed form, please call our parish office to speak with Fr. Dave.

Do we need to bring anything for the Baptism?

If you have not sent in the signed sponsor forms for the godparents, please bring them with you on the day of baptism. Other than that, you do not need to bring any other forms.

Please invite as many family members and friends as you would like.

Can we take pictures and/or videos during the Baptism liturgy?

Most definitely! Picture and video taking is encouraged. You will also have the opportunity to take pictures in the church after the Baptism liturgy.

Is there a fee for the Baptism?

There is NO charge or fee for Baptism at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish. Families usually give an offering or a monetary gift to the parish (usually \$100 or more), but it is not required. Most families will also give an offering to the priest or deacon. Again, this is not required.

Other thoughts . . .

You will receive a number of items on the day of Baptism:

- An official Baptism certificate which is the record of your child's Baptism. If there are any errors in spelling or information, please call the parish office and we will replace the copy.
- A Baptism robe and candle that are used in the liturgy.
- A gift for your infant child.

We will also take a photo of you, your child and the godparents which will be printed in the parish bulletin. If you would prefer this not happen, please let Fr. Dave or Deacon Joe know on the day of Baptism.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Martha, our Administrative Assistant, at the parish office.

She may be reached at: **(508) 695-6161**