

Frequently Asked Questions Related to Baptism

What if I am registered in another parish?

Normally, the child is baptized in the parish in which parents are registered. However, if there is a reason to have your child baptized at Santiago de Compostela (ex. Elderly members of the family reside in this area), you may ask the pastor of the parish in which you are registered to provide a letter of permission to do the sacrament here. You must first be registered with your local parish to have a baptism.

What if we are not married in the Catholic Church?

Baptism welcomes your child into the family of faith. The role of the parents is essential to the faith development of the child. You will need to discuss your marriage situation with our deacon before the baptism process for your child can continue.

What if the parents are not married at all?

The parents need to call the Rectory (949-951-8599) and discuss the situation with the secretary first. Any time parents are not married and seeking the sacrament of baptism for their child, the deacon must meet with them first to discuss their options. Both parents need to agree to baptize the child, whatever their marital status.

What preparation is required for parents?

Parents have to attend a baptism preparation class before the date of the baptism can be scheduled. If this is not the first child in the family to be baptized, and the parents have attended class before, parents need to check with the parish secretary to see if they have to attend class again for this baptism.

Do godparents have to be Catholic?

Listed below are the qualifications for being a godparent as listed in Canon Law:

- Over sixteen years of age
- Fully initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)
- If married, was married in the Catholic Church
- A good example of Christian living
- Attends Mass regularly
- Is willing to accept the responsibility of being a godparent

How many godparents do I need?

One godparent who meets the above requirements is necessary. If you have two godparents, one must be male and one female. Only two will be recorded in the Baptismal Register of the Catholic Church, and listed on the child's Baptism Certificate.

What if the person I want for a godparent is not Catholic?

One godparent must be Catholic as described above. A second person may function as a Christian witness.

What is a Christian witness?

Qualifications for a Christian witness:

- Over sixteen years of age
- Baptized with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in a non Catholic Christian denomination
- Actively participates in their church
- A good example of Christian living
- Is willing to accept the responsibility of being a godparent

Can a "former Catholic" who call him/herself a Christian, be a Christian witness in a Catholic Baptism?

No, a "former Catholic" may not be a Christian witness in a Catholic Baptism.

Can grandparents be godparents?

Yes, if they meet the requirements.

If you have any questions if your godparents or Christian witnesses meet the requirements of the Catholic Church, please call the Rectory at 949-951-8599 to discuss your concerns.