



GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 7

Parents

1. Parents should be practicing members of Immaculate Conception Parish School, Revere, MA. If not, the pastor should be notified.
2. Parents must provide all the information requested. It will be used to identify the child to be baptized, prepare the baptism certificate, and record the baptism in our Sacramental Record Book.
3. Parents registered in another church parish who wish to have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception must first obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the church parish in which they are registered.
4. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting. If they attended the same preparation within a 2 year period, this requirement is waived – if taken in another parish, please submit a letter of participation.
5. The date of Baptism will only be confirmed if parents and godparents attended the Baptismal talk.

Godparents

1. Godparents must be practicing Catholics who are at least 16 years of age and must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. If married, the godparent must be married in the Catholic Church or had their marriage blessed by the Catholic Church.

2. If godparents are not parishioners of Immaculate Conception, they must present a letter signed by their pastor indicating that they are Catholics in good stand, and qualified to serve as a godparents.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***How many godparents should there be?*** Church law only requires you to have one godparent; however, it has been tradition to have two.

2. ***Can the same godparents have responsibility for more than one child in the same family?*** Yes, as long as they take seriously their responsibility and intention to help the children grow in faith.

3. ***What sex should the godparent be?*** If you choose only one godparent, you are free to choose a male or a female. However, if you wish to have two godparents, there must be one male and one female.

4. ***Can a non-Catholic serve as a godparent?*** A baptized, non-Catholic may serve as an official witness to the baptism, only if there is proper Catholic sponsor who fully meets all requirements of a godparent. During the baptism, a Non-Catholic witness may perform all the parts of the ceremony that a godparent does. His/her name will not appear as a godparent.

5. ***What is the difference between a godparent and a witness?*** Witness is the term that is only mentioned in the Code of Canon Law. Canon Law describes a witness as a baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community. A godparent is a confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

6. ***Can someone serve as godparent by proxy (stand-in) if the godparent is unable to participate in the baptism ceremony?*** If a godparent cannot attend the baptism ceremony, a proxy can stand in the place of the missing godparent. The name of that person will be entered as a proxy in the Sacramental Record Book, along with the name of the missing godparent.