

St. Anne Catholic Church

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church



Baptism Celebration

What is Adequate Preparation?

The Sacrament of Baptism for children or adults is the basis of the whole Christian life. The Catholic Catechism states that “through Baptism we are reborn as sons and daughters of God, we become members of Christ, and are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.” All the Old Testament prefigurations of Baptism find their fulfillment in Christ Jesus. He begins his public life after having himself been baptized by John the Baptizer in the Jordan River. After his resurrection, Christ gives this mission to his apostles: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

For Christians, community has always been an essential part of life. Christians form a community in Christ, with him at the center. Also essential are the parents and the godparents who form a support system for the child in this community. This is the reason choosing godparents is a decision not to be taken lightly.

Diocesan guidelines are as follows:

- † The parents of the child to be baptized and those who are to undertake the office of godparents are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of Baptism and the responsibilities assumed by them. A number of them can be brought together for instruction, pastoral advice and prayer. (St. Anne/St. Anthony usually has a seminary on the first Tuesday of the month, on an as-need basis. Pre-registration is required.)
- † For the infant to be baptized, there must be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith. If such hope is truly lacking, the Baptism can be deferred (until such hope is realized.)
- † Non-registered families outside the parish need to get approval in writing from their pastor to submit to the pastor at St. Anne/St. Anthony.
- † Godparents outside of the parish need to get a statement from their pastor to indicate their readiness to serve as a suitable godparent. If the godparents are members of St. Anne or St. Anthony parishes, they must be registered in our parish census. This is our way of identifying the persons and having some knowledge of their participation in our parish life. (The godparents must be believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life.) According to the Diocesan regulation, at least one godparent must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic 16 years or older. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community or a Catholic who has not been confirmed can be a witness to a baptism, not a godparent.

‡ When emergency Baptism occurs, it is necessary that parents and godparents receive baptismal preparation and make arrangements to have the church ceremonies supplied within their parish.

Enclosed you will find two (2) *Godparent Forms*. Only one godparent is required. If two godparents are chosen, one must be male and the other female. Those chosen to be godparents to your child should complete these forms. You will also find a *Parent Form* to be completed by the parents.

Letting us know when you would like to attend the monthly seminar and baptism is key. We are here for you to make this very important event in your family's Christian life significant and meaningful.