

Sacrament of Baptism

By baptism one is incorporated into the Church of Christ and is constituted a person in it with the duties and rights which are proper to Christians in keeping with their condition. (Code of Canon Law 96)

Where should I be baptized?

“As a rule an adult is to be baptized in his or her parish church and an infant in the parish church of the parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise.” (Canon Law 857 & 2) If you are a Catholic that lives in Kennewick and want to baptize your son or daughter in another parish, you will need a letter from the pastor of Saint Andrew’s giving you permission to do so.

If you don’t live in Kennewick and want to baptize your child in this parish, you will need a letter from your parish saying you have permission to baptize in this parish.

Note: If it has been more than 3 years since your last baptism preparation class, you will need to attend class again. If you are unable to attend class at our parish, you may attend class at another parish. Please provide a letter of completion to the parish office.

Definition of infants, minors and adults

Canon Law number 97 says “a person who has completed the eighteenth year of age has reached majority; below this age, a person is a minor.”

A minor before the completion of the seventh year is called an infant and is considered not responsible for oneself. With the completion of the seventh year, however, a minor is presumed to have the use of reason.

A child who has not completed his/her seventh year may be baptized at the parents’ request. If the child is age 8 or above, the child must attend 2 years of preparation classes and celebrate all sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Pre-baptismal preparation

The Canon Law n 851 &2 says that “the parents of an infant to be baptized and those who are to undertake the function of sponsor are to be instructed properly on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it.” The parents and sponsors have to attend a class before the baptism of the child. The class is offered the second Wednesday of the month.

Sponsors

There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each. (Canon Law 873)

To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- Have completed the sixteenth years of age.
- Be a Catholic
- Received Sacrament of the Most Holy Sacraments of the Eucharist
- Leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on. (no cohabitation)
- A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate, except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

Can I be baptized if I am not married?

Yes, but the sponsors have to be married in the Catholic Church and bring a copy of the marriage certificate.

Note: If you do not know when you will be baptizing you can still attend the class and when you have picked a date, call the parish office.

Registration

Complete the registration form at the parish office. Bring a copy of the infant's birth certificate at the moment of registration. (must be a legal copy from the state, not a certificate from the hospital). You must register two weeks prior to the baptism class.

Contribution : \$50 per child.

Clothing

A white baptismal gown is customary but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's breast. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for the baptism.

Candle

The parish can provide a baptismal candle if needed. After the ceremony keep as a reminder of this joyous milestone.

Pre-baptismal Class

The class is offered the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm in old church.

Please register at the parish office before attending the class.

The Baptism class is required for parents and sponsors. Class is valid for three years.

- Arrive 15 minutes before to sign attendance form.
- Please do not bring children

Baptism

The baptisms are on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month. There could be a liturgical celebration that may interrupt this pattern, so please verify with the parish office.

Baptism in Group

Saturday— 9:30 am English
Saturday—11:00 am Spanish

Baptism during Mass

No more than 3 babies per Mass.

Sunday—9:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm in English
Sunday—1:00 pm Spanish

Arrive 30 min. before the Baptism.

INFORMATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR INFANTS



St. Joseph Parish

520 S. Garfield, Kennewick, WA 99336

Tel: (509) 586-3820

Fax: (509) 586-3558

parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org

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