

Baptism Preparations

The Importance of Baptism

Congratulations! You are taking an extremely important step in you and your family's spiritual life. Baptism is necessary for salvation. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted Baptism as the means of removing original sin from our souls, of being born again and incorporated into His Mystical Body, and of becoming members of His Church. There is nothing else more important for you right now than to ensure that you and your family members are baptized.

Scheduled Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated on any given Sunday, please request the date four weeks in advance.

What Are the Requirements for Infant Baptisms?

1. Age Eligibility

Infant Baptism is for children from birth until their 7th birthday.

- If your child is 7 years or older, they must be enrolled in religious education classes for one year, as they are considered to have reached the age of reason.

2. Pre-Baptismal Class for Parents

Parents are required to attend a pre-baptismal class.

- Classes are held on the 1st Sunday of each month after the 11:00 AM Mass.
- Registration is required.
- Register here:

<https://stphilipfranklin.com/formation/sacraments/#preparation>

3. Baptismal Registration Form

Once your baptism date has been confirmed, please complete the baptismal form:

- <https://stphilipfranklin.formstack.com/forms/baptism>
- You will need to upload your child's birth certificate to this form.
 - If you're unable to upload it, you may email a copy or bring it in person.
 - Email: jwhite@stphilipfranklin.com

4. Parish Affiliation Requirement

Children should be baptized in the parish where at least one parent regularly attends and is registered.

- If St. Philip is not your home parish and you are requesting baptism here, a permission letter of good standing from your home parish pastor is required.

Godparent Requirements:

A Godparent is someone who supports the parents in raising the newly baptized in the Catholic faith and may assume this responsibility in the event of the parents' disability or death. Each child must have at least one Godparent and may have no more than two (one male and one female, if two are chosen).

According to *Canon Law* regarding a non-Catholic sponsor:

Note: A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a "Christian witness" (not a godparent) provided that there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person or a baptized Catholic cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc. 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1255).

To serve as a godparent, a person must meet the following criteria:

- Be a good role model in the Catholic faith, with the ability and intention to actively support the child's spiritual growth.
- Be at least 16 years old.
- If two godparents are chosen, one must be male and the other female.
- Be a fully initiated Roman Catholic—having received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation—and be living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- If the godparent is not a parishioner at St. Philip, a letter of good standing from their home parish is required.
- Godparents must either:
 - Be single and not living in a non-sacramental (free union) relationship and show their sacrament of confirmation as proof, or
 - Be married in the Catholic Church, with a valid Catholic marriage certificate as proof. A civil marriage without Church convalidation is not a valid sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church for they are not living fully the sacramental life.

Note: **Canon 874 §1, 3º**, i.e., "leading a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."

The Church encourages the person to bless their marriage into the church (through *convalidation* or *sanatio in radice*), after which they may once again fully participate in sacramental roles.

Should you have additional questions or need further explanation, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer White, 615-794-8588- jwhite@stphilipfranklin.com.