



Dear Parent(s),

Congratulations to you on receiving God's gift to you in your child and thank you for entering the journey of faith with your child. Children are one of the greatest blessings to their parents. It is through the eyes of children that Jesus invites us to see God's created world. As much as you'll be able to teach your child throughout the course of his or her life, he or she will also be one of your greatest teachers.

Inside of this booklet, you'll find information about Baptism in the Catholic Church. Baptisms are held on Sundays immediately after the 11am Mass with few exceptions. Please reach out to our parish office at 440-729-9575 to schedule your child's Baptism.

May God Bless you,

The Pastoral Staff at St. Anselm Church

Scheduling Baptisms here at St. Anselm

- Baptisms are scheduled most Sundays during the year after the 11AM Mass.
- There should be a reasonable hope your child will be raised in the Catholic faith.
- Registration for Baptism must be made with the Parish office.
- "Private" Baptisms are not normally scheduled as Baptism is a public celebration wherein a child becomes a Child of God and a member of the Church Community.
 - Special arrangements, on an individual basis, need to be made directly with a parish priest or deacon.
- Kindly respond to emails or phone calls from our parish secretary who will insure the proper spelling of names on documents.

Parent's Responsibility

- The Church instructs that parent(s) are the primary educators of their children. Parent(s) should be actively practicing their faith, giving witness that they are living lives in harmony with the Gospel.
- Your marital status will be clarified during the preparation time. Catholic parents should be testifying to the importance of their faith by living in a Sacramental Marriage that is recognized by the Church.
- If the status of your marriage is not in harmony with Catholic teaching, please inquire with a priest or deacon as to how your marriage can be recognized so as to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage. This may involve the convalidation of your marriage.

Qualifications for Godparent(s)

- Fully Initiated Catholics (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)
- Registered at a parish and attending Mass weekly
- At least 16 years old
- If married, must be married in the Church (Sacramental Marriage)
- Trying to live as a disciple of Jesus
- There must be at least one Godparent who is Catholic
 - If two, one male and one female
- Parent(s) of child to be baptized cannot also be Godparent(s) of their child

Qualifications for a Christian Witness

- Christian witness is a practicing member of another Christian Church
 - This is not a former Catholic who is practicing another faith
 - He or she must be Baptized
- There can only be one Christian witness (although there doesn't have to be one)
- At least 16 years old
- Trying to live as a disciple of Jesus

Common Q&A on back

Common Questions and Answers

What should my child come dressed in?

- ⇒ White is the color of baptism. Most parents will have some type of baptismal outfit to put on their child. Children are to come already dressed for Baptism in their outfit.

Can I take pictures?

- ⇒ Yes, just ask the priest or deacon where photographers should stand.

Can I request a priest or deacon?

- ⇒ Simply ask the parish secretary when scheduling the Baptism who might be presiding over the Baptisms on a particular Sunday.

What time should we show up?

- ⇒ We recommend that you and your family attend the 11 AM Mass. Please arrive about 10 minutes early so you can be settled in your pew before the Mass begins. You'll receive instructions from the Priest or Deacon after the Mass as to where to go. There will be a few minutes after Mass to take care of any last minute accidents if you need to. Our restroom has a changing table.

What are the seating arrangements?

- ⇒ Each priest or deacon will instruct families where to sit for the Baptism.

Is there a fee for Baptism?

- ⇒ There is no fee to have your child baptized, but it is common practice to make a monetary gift to the priest or deacon who celebrates the Sacrament with you and your family.