



ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parents:

On behalf of St. Anthony Catholic Church, we extend to you and your child our warmest welcome. Baptism is a welcoming of your child into Christ and into the Church. You are the primary teachers of your child. Your child will learn about life, love, God, and religion from you. By your example and life, your child will learn about your values and beliefs.

A decision to have a child baptized is serious. This decision means that you are choosing to accept responsibility for your child's early faith development. Baptism is a beginning of one's life in the Family of God and is surely a most important step.

To assist you we have established the following guidelines for Infant Baptism (6 years of age or younger):

1. **You must be a registered parishioner in order to baptize in our parish for at least three (3) months.** If you are registered or attend another parish, you are required to obtain a letter of good standing from your Pastor and return to us before you can begin the process to baptize your child.
2. **Submit Child's official state Birth Certificate issued by State, County, or City (no hospital certificates are accepted) & completed Baptism Registration Form.**
3. **Parents & Godparent(s) will need to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class.** Classes are held in our parish on the last Sunday of the month (a two-hour class from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – class dates are subject to change) and are valid for three years. If class is attended elsewhere, a letter verifying class attendance should be presented prior to the baptism. Please do not bring children to the class.
4. **Select Godparents and submit their Sacrament Record** – (as per Code of Canon Law) Child may have one godparent (male or female) or two godparents (one male and one female). Godparents are to be Catholics who have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation; cannot be a parent of the child to be baptized; must be at least 16 years old; actively practicing their Catholic faith by attending Mass on Sunday, receiving the sacraments, and be a member in good standing. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. If the Godparents are not married, but are a couple, they must be living in separate households (cannot be *living together*). If from another parish, Godparents should bring a letter from their pastor verifying they are in good standing with the Catholic Church to serve as godparents, as well as, verifying that they have attended a baptismal preparation class (if they do not attend class at St. Anthony).
5. **Submit \$20 fee along with all required forms and documents to the parish office by deadline.**
6. **Setting the Baptism Date** – In order to set a date you must have turned in the infant registration form, birth certificate, sacramental records of Godparents, \$20 fee, and the baptismal class must have been attended by both the parents and the godparents. You will not be allowed to schedule a date until all is complete. **For newly registered parishioners, there is a three month waiting period.** Baptisms in our parish are held the first and third Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

If you should have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 361-387-2774. We look forward to being of service to you. We pray for God's blessings for you and your child.