

# Some Questions People Ask about Baptism

## 1. **Can our baby be baptized if we're not married? Not married in the Church?**

Your baby's Baptism and your marriage are two separate issues. Your marital status may be discussed during your Baptism interview, to encourage you to get married (or validate your marriage in the Church) if this is appropriate. However, as long as you are committed to raising your child as a Catholic, he/she may celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and be welcomed into the Church.

## 2. **Can our baby be baptized if we're not practicing Catholics?**

Baptism is more than a rite of passage for an infant, or a washing away of original sin. Baptism is a sharing in the life of the risen Christ. Baptism is also the first step of initiation into the Christian community. During the Rite of Baptism, parents promise to raise their child IN THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH. Parents who are not practicing members of the community may be asked to *delay* the Baptism of their child until they have re-established that connection.

## 3. **Can our child be baptized in a parish if we do not live within the parish boundaries?**

Baptism, like all of the sacraments, is a celebration of a living relationship with God and with the local believing community, the parish. The sacraments are celebrations of our Church and, as such, are **normally celebrated** in the **parish where the family resides or is registered and usually worships**.

## 4. **How do we arrange to have our child baptized in a parish other than the one where we normally worship?**

If, for a good reason (for example, so extended family may attend), parents wish to have their child baptized in another parish, they need to contact the Parish office to ask if the Pastor is willing to baptize their child.

A **letter of permission** to have the baby baptized elsewhere must be obtained from the Pastor of the parish where the family usually worships.

## **5. What must I do to register my baby for baptism?**

To register your child for baptism, complete the following:

- Read through this booklet
- Complete the Baptism Registration Form, and Parents' Reflecting Faith Questionnaire.
- Return them to the parish office.
- Parish Office to contact parents to book a date for an INTERVIEW.
- After your interview, a date for the BAPTISM may be selected.

## **6. How many sponsors are required?**

The child may have only one or two godparents. If two godparents are chosen, one is to be a man and the other a woman. (Canon 873)

## **7. Can a Roman Catholic who is not confirmed be a sponsor or at least a Christian Witness?**

The Christian Witness is a provision for non-Catholics. The requirement to be a sponsor is that they must be confirmed. See Requirement in order to Fulfil Role of Sponsor.

## **8. Can a person of the Orthodox faith be a sponsor?**

A member of the Eastern Orthodox Church may be a sponsor together with a Catholic.

## **9. How much do I give for a baptism?**

The church does not attach a price for a sacrament. However, just like in your family, love is not enough. The bills have to be paid. A free-will offering from you is appropriate. It shows your gratitude to the Church.

It also reflects your responsible stewardship and participation in the shared expenses of running the church. So, an appropriate offering would be whatever is realistic for you. It should reflect your family's financial possibility. The usual offering is \$50.

## **10. May a child be "rebaptized" if he/she was baptized in a hospital, etc. in an emergency situation?**

A person may be baptized only once. However, parents should bring their child to complete the welcoming ceremonies (which are part of the Baptismal Rite) in their own parish.