

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

A godparent is a confirmed practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Baptized Catholics are usually not allowed to stand as Christian Witnesses.

Can someone serve as godparent by proxy (stand-in) if they are unable to participate in the baptism ceremony?

If a godparent cannot attend the baptism ceremony, a proxy aged 18 years and up, can stand in the place of the missing godparent. The name of the witness will be entered as *proxy* in the Sacramental Record Book along with the name of the missing godparent.

If your relationship with a godparent fades or sours after your child is baptized, can you have the record changed in the Sacramental Record Book?

No. The parish Sacramental Record Book is a record of what happened and godparents' names are a part of it. Baptism records cannot be changed.

2016-2017 Baptism Dates	Baptism Seminars
January 14/15 —Baptism during all Masses January 28 —5:30 p.m.	Monday, January 9 Monday, February 6
February 11/12 —Baptism during all Masses February 25 —5:30 p.m.	Monday, March 6 Monday, April 3
March 11 —5:30 p.m.	Monday, May 1
April 8 —5:30 p.m. April 16 —Easter Sunday Masses	Monday, June 5 Monday, July 3
May 13/14 — Baptism during all Masses May 27 — 5:30 p.m.	Monday, August 7 Monday, September 11
June 10/11 — Baptism during all Masses June 24 — 5:30 p.m.	Monday October 2 Monday November 6
July 8-9 — Baptism during all Masses July 22 — 5:30 p.m.	Monday December 4
	Seminars are held at 7:00 p.m. in Church

Baptism Guidelines



St. John the Evangelist

Catholic Church

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St. John the Evangelist Baptism Policy

The policy of St. John the Evangelist Parish for Infant Baptism is as follows:

Parents:

- 1) Parents must be registered believing and practicing members of St. John Parish. Catholic parents must embrace the fullness of the faith proclaimed by the church and truly make a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation. They must fully embrace the responsibility of training their children in the practice of the faith. Practicing the faith includes active participation at Mass on Sundays and Holy days and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as needed. (The Pastor or Deacon offer their pastoral assistance to any non-practicing catholic who seeks to renew their faith.)
- 2) St. John registered parishioners must complete a Baptism Information Sheet on the child to be baptized and return it to the Parish Office prior to baptism preparation. (This form is used to identify the child to be baptized, prepare baptism certificates and record the baptism in our Sacramental Record Book.)
- 3) Parents registered in another parish who wish to have their child baptized at St. John must first seek permission from the pastor of the church parish in which they are registered.
- 5) Both parents are required to attend a Baptism Seminar.
- 6) Upon completing baptism preparation and after all paperwork is received, the Baptism may then be scheduled by calling the office **no later than Wednesday before the baptism is to take place.**

Godparents:

- 1) Godparents must be **practicing**, Catholics who are at least 16 years of age and **must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.** If married, must be **in a valid marriage** performed by a priest or deacon or blessed through Con-validation.
- 2) If godparents are from a Parish other than St. John, they must have a St. John Baptism Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility form signed by their pastor indicating that they are registered parishioners, practicing

Godparents cont.

Catholics and recommended by that pastor as being qualified to serve as a godparent.

- 3) Non practicing Catholics or Catholics with canonical impediments that prevent them from fully practicing their faith (ie: not married in the church, divorced and remarried without an annulment) are asked to meet with Fr. Martin, Deacon Randy or Deacon Claude prior to scheduling Baptism.
- 4) Both godparents are required to attend a Baptismal Seminar. If godparents are from a Parish other than St. John, that requirement can be met by attending a seminar in their home parish.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many godparents should there be?

Church law only requires you to have one Confirmed and practicing godparent in full communion; however, it has been tradition to have two.

Can the same godparents have responsibility for more than one child in the same family?

Yes, as long as they take seriously their responsibility and intention to help the children grow in faith. One should not be godparent to more than one child at the same baptism service.

What sex should the godparent be?

If you choose only one godparent, you are free to choose a male or a female. However, if you wish to have two godparents, there must be one male and one female.

Can a non-Catholic serve as a godparent?

While it is ideal for parents to select two Catholic godparents, the church only requires that there be one godparent. A baptized **non-Catholic** may serve as a "witness" to the ceremony, as long as a Catholic godparent who fully meets all requirements of a godparent is present. The non-Catholic who is selected as a witness should be an active and participating member of his/her church community. During the Baptism, a non-Catholic *witness* may perform all the parts of the ceremony that a godparent does. His or her name will be entered into the Sacramental Record Book as a "witness," together with the name of the godparent.

What is the difference between a godparent and a witness?

Christian Witness is a term that is mentioned in the Code of Canon Law. Canon Law describes a witness as: **"A baptized person who belongs to a non catholic ecclesial community."**