

Baptizing Your Baby at St. Francis Xavier Parish



Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Church! We are so happy to celebrate this important event with you and your family. If you are not a member of our parish, you are invited to consider us your spiritual home by registering your family online or at our front office. We are here to be of service!

“Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord’s will, it is necessary for salvation...Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship...Since the earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom.” Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1277

Age of Infant Baptism: We as Catholics believe that infant baptism is important because just as we have shared our physical life with our child, it is important to begin their spiritual formation as soon as possible. God considers them part of his family, like his own sons and daughters.

Therefore, communal Baptism, with other children, is strongly encouraged.

Parents/legal guardians should ensure that their children are baptized within a reasonable period after birth. Once children have reached the age of reason (usually 7 years old), they would enter a different program to prepare for the sacraments of initiation, including Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. If your child is 6 years of age, it is necessary that your child participates in a religious education/sacramental preparation program that will lead to reception of the sacraments of Eucharist (1st Communion) and Confirmation in order to be baptized. This could be here in our St. Francis Xavier parish faith formation program, at St. Francis Xavier School or in the religious education program at another parish. For children 6 years of age, verification of participation in a religious education/sacramental preparation program is required. All baptized persons should be fully initiated into the Church through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Requirements for Baptism

- At least one parent or legal guardian must give their consent for the baptism, and there must be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith.
- Acquire originals or copies of the following documents:
 - Your child's birth certificate
 - For legal guardians, a copy of the order appointing you as legal guardian.
 - For each godparent (godparents must be at least 16 years old)
 - If married, a Catholic Church wedding certificate; □ If single, First Eucharist, AND Confirmation certificates.
- Schedule an interview with one of our priests **after having all the certificates in hand** and bring them with you to the meeting. After the meeting you will be contacted by our baptism coordinator to schedule the baptismal class and baptism. Baptism class is required for godparents, parents and legal guardians. Godparents who attend a class at another parish may submit the certificate from that parish. The class must be within the last two years. **For both parents and godparents, the baptism class is to be done in a parish in person. Please discuss any exceptions with the priest in the interview.**
- All these requirements must be met, including requirements for godparents, in order for your baptism to go forward.
- We ask for a contribution of either \$100 for those who are taking the class and baptizing their child(ren) at St. Francis or \$50 for those who are taking the class only. Please be prepared to make that payment at the time you meet with the priest.

Requirements for Godparents

- One godparent is required. If there are 2 godparents, one must be male and one female.
- Godparents must be designated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and be at least 16 years old.
- Godparents must be Catholics who have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation, and be living a life of faith. Single Godparents must testify to the fact that they are not living with another as husband or wife.
- If any godparent is married, the marriage must be in the Catholic Church.
- Cohabiting couples or couples who are civilly married may not qualify to be godparents.

Once you have all the proper documentation, please call the office to schedule an appointment with the priest and **bring all of the required documents with you to that meeting**. Only the mother or the father (or legal guardian) need to attend this initial interview.

BAPTISM CLASSES

All classes are held in the Lower-Level Training Room
(LOCATION OF BAPTISM CLASS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Due to insurance requirements, and to make sure parents and godparents are able to engage in the baptism class, children are not permitted in class. Please make arrangements for childcare if necessary.

Baptism Class: This session is for ALL parents/guardians and godparents requesting to have their child baptized at St. Francis Xavier. This session will be from **9:00am-12:00(noon)**. All classes are held on a Saturday. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m.to check in.

June 2025 – July 2026 English BAPTISM CLASSES

2025

June 7
July – NONE
Aug. 2 (lower-level training room)
Sept. 6 (lower-level training room)
Oct. 4 (lower-level training room)
Nov. 1 (lower-level training room)
Dec. 6 (lower level training room)

2026

Jan. 3 (lower-level training room)
Feb. 7 (lower-level training room)
Mar. 7 (lower-level training room)
Mar. 28 (lower-level training room)
May – none
June 6 (lower-level training room)
July – none

June 2025 – July 2026 English BAPTISM DATES

Baptisms are held on **Saturdays at 9:00am** in the church unless otherwise noted.

Please be in the church no later than **8:45am to check in**. **If you are more than 10 minutes late for the baptism, we will ask you to reschedule to another date.**

2025

June 14
July: NONE
Aug. 9
Sept. 13
Oct. 11
Nov. 8
Dec. 13

2026

Jan. 10
Feb. 14
Mar. 14
April 11
May – none
June 13
July – none

For further information regarding English baptisms, please contact
Alejandra Saucedo 602-212-4519 or
email Alejandra.saucedo@sfxphx.org