



Baptism Guidelines

(revised May 4, 2025)

1. Eligibility

- Any person, regardless of age or any other characteristic, may be baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, except for persons who have already been baptized in either the Anglican/ Episcopalian Church, the Methodist Church, or in any other Christian denomination, which uses the Trinitarian formula in their rite of baptism. In these cases, the Roman Catholic Church already recognizes the validity of their baptism; hence, such persons cannot be re-baptized.
- For children, ages 7 and younger, consent of the parents is required, except in case of emergency. In addition, parents and godparents will be required to attend instructional sessions prior to the baptism to ensure that they understand the meaning of the sacrament and the nature of their commitment.
- For youth (8-years old or older) and adults, the Church requires the proper catechesis and formation prior to receiving the sacrament of Baptism, except in cases of emergency.

2. Godparents

- Ordinarily, a child to be baptized will have two godparents; however, only one is required. In the case of two godparents, they should be one man and one woman.
- The godparents should be “people of faith,” who strive to live a life consistent with the Gospel. Godparents should also be:
 - baptized Roman Catholics, who have received the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation;
 - at least 16-years old;
 - leading lives of prayer and loving-service;
 - regular Sunday mass attendees.
- A godparent may not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.
- At the discretion of the pastor, one of the godparents may be a non-Catholic, who is a practicing Christian. In this case, the person is referred to as a “witness.”

3. Venue

The proper venue for a baptism is the parish Church. In case of emergency, baptism can be conferred in a private home, hospital, or other setting.

“Emergency” refers to threat of immanent death or grave illness.

4. Preparation

- St. Martin de Porres parish offers instructional sessions for parents and godparents of young children to be baptized consisting of two evening classes (each lasting one-hour). Parents and the godparents are expected to attend both preparation sessions. The pastor may change this requirement depending on the particular situation or pastoral needs of the family.
- Youth between the ages of 8-years old and 15-years old are expected to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) program prior to receiving the sacraments of initiation.
- Adults, ages 16 and older, are required to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program prior to receiving the sacraments of initiation.
- In all cases, please inquire with the parish office about the dates and times of all preparation sessions.

5. Scheduling

- Baptism is celebrated on the second Sunday of the Month after the 9:00 AM Mass.
- Contact the parish sacristan to register the child for baptism