

Baptism FAQs

Q. Can the child be baptized even if the parents are living together but not married?

A. The parents' marital status is not a condition for the child's baptism, however, they should consider getting married in the Catholic Church. Parents are the first teachers of the faith but they teach more by being role models for the children, by living the Catholic faith, and by example.

Q. What are the requirements to get our child baptized?

- A. 1. Complete the application for Baptism which parents could pick up from the parish office during regular office hours. The forms could also be mailed or emailed to the parents. Completed forms must be turned in at least one month prior to scheduled Baptism date.
2. Initial interview with Julia Torres, Director of Religious Education as soon as she receives the application form and other required documents. There may be a follow up interview with the clergy.
3. Parents must be registered parishioners of OLPH. If they have been coming to OLPH but are not registered, they should register now. They may download the Parish registration form from the parish website: <http://www.olphewabeach.org/parishdirectory>
4. Parents and godparents must attend baptism preparation classes. Please call Julia at 808-689-8681 Ext. 107 for the schedule of class(es).
5. Parents must bring the child at any weekend Mass following the celebration of Baptism.

Q. How many godparents can we have?

A. Canon Law (the Laws of the Church) says one godparent will fulfill the requirements but if there are two, then one must be male and other one, female.

Q. Can we have more than two godparents?

A. Only the primary godparents' name (one male and one female) will be shown on the baptismal certificate and parish baptism register book. The others (secondary, etc.) may attend the celebration of Baptism but their names will not be on record.

Q. What if one parent is not Catholic?

A. We Baptize the child with the understanding that the non-Catholic parent agrees to the Baptism and that the child will be raised Catholic. It will be the responsibility of the Catholic parent to raise the child in the Catholic faith.

Q. Can Christians be godparents?

A. Godparents must be fully initiated Roman Catholic. Fully initiated means that they are Baptized or Received into Full Communion in the Roman Catholic Church, and have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

If "Christians" refer to non-Catholics, such as evangelicals, etc., they can be part of the celebration but only as "Christian witness", not as godparents. Furthermore, a Catholic godparent is required for a non-Catholic to serve as a "Christian witness".

Please call Julia at 808-689-8681 Ext. 107 for other questions you might have.