

Baptism Day: What to Expect

Q: Where should I go when I get to the church? Is there someplace in particular I should sit during Mass?

A: Most of our baptisms take place after the latest morning Mass. You are welcome to sit wherever you like during Mass. After Mass, please go to the front of the church by the baptismal font.

If you have scheduled your child's baptism outside our regular Sunday times, please arrive at the church around 10-15 minutes early and simply gather by the baptismal font at the front of the church.

Q: We have family who won't be able to make it to the Mass. What time should they be there?

A: We start the Baptism Rite as soon as possible after Mass ends. Since we don't know exactly what time Mass will end, we advise that any family be at the church at noon. They are welcome to wait in the narthex until Mass ends.

Q: What should my child wear?

A: Please have your child dressed in a formal, white or cream-colored garment. Please have them dressed before Mass if you plan to attend Mass since we do try to start the Rite as soon as possible after Mass.

Q: What else (besides the guest of honor) do I need to bring with me?

A: Unless you have been asked to bring any documentation with you, all you'll need to remember to bring is a camera! We provide everything else needed for the ceremony.

Q: Can we take pictures during the ceremony?

A: Absolutely! We hope that you will! Generally, you are also more than welcome to stay and take pictures after the ceremony has concluded. Occasionally, we have an event scheduled in the church immediately following baptisms, so that may not always be a possibility. But we always try to allow time for your family and friends to take pictures.

Q: I've been told that there will be other children baptized at the same time as my child. How does that work?

A: The priest or deacon will perform each part of the Rite for each child. For example, the celebrant will make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the first child, then go to the next and do the same, etc. Then, he'll move on to the next part of the Rite.

When it comes time for the actual baptism with water, only the parents and godparents of that child will go up to the baptismal font. After the child is baptized, they will return to their seats and the next family will go up to the baptismal font.

Q: How long does the ceremony last?

A: Generally, even with several children being baptized at the same time, the baptism ceremony only takes between 30min to 60min. We are generally done by 1:30pm if not before.