

Baptism



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"I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." John 3

The Sacrament of Baptism is often called "The door of the Church," because it is the first of the seven sacraments, not only in time but in priority, since the reception of the other sacraments depends on it. Once baptized, a person becomes a member of the Church.

At Holy Spirit, we place a high value on welcoming children and their families into the Catholic faith. We look forward to sharing this wonderful time of grace with you and your family!

What do we need to have our baby baptized?

First, call the parish office at (704) 483-6448 and speak with the Danielle Pasqua, Parish Office Associate, to schedule an orientation session. Please call as soon as possible. Print the Baptism Registry Info form from our website, fill it out and bring to the parish office to receive additional Baptism information and materials.

Second, the parents and godparents must attend a Baptism preparation class with the Pastor or Deacon. At least one parent must be present. Classes are scheduled by appointment in the Parish Activity Center (PAC).

Baptismal preparation class may be attended at another parish. Please bring your certificate of attendance one week before the Baptism.

If parents or godparents have previously attended a baptismal preparation class at Holy Spirit or at another parish, they will not need to attend again for another child to be Baptized.

When are classes and Baptisms scheduled?

Classes generally are held once a month, but may be scheduled at another time for necessity. Baptisms usually occur at Mass on Saturdays and Sundays.

How soon should we have our baby baptized?

Because God's gift of new life in Baptism is so important to your child and to your family's Christian life, you should not delay Baptism for any reason. We recommend that your baby be baptized within six months of birth, preferably earlier. You can take the required classes even before your baby is born.

What are the requirements for godparents?

According to The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church (Can. 874) in order to be a godparent, a person must be at least 16 years of age, a practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation; if married, they must have been married in the Catholic Church. One godparent is required, male or female. A maximum of two, one of each sex are permitted.

If the godparent(s) are not registered members of Holy Spirit parish, they must provide a Letter of Good Standing or Letter of Eligibility from their home parish.

The church permits a baptized member of another Christian faith tradition to serve as a Christian witness in place of one godparent. Godparents and Christian witnesses must be at least 16 years of age.

If the godparents are not able to be present, any practicing Catholic -- including the parents -- may serve as proxies

Must our child be baptized with a saint's name?

No. However, Catholic tradition values placing children under a saint's patronage. This patron saint then serves as a mentor in times of prayer and celebration, particularly on feast days and All Saints' Day.

What if we (the child's parents) were not married in the Catholic Church?

It is not mandatory that the parents be married in the Catholic Church, but it is preferable; Catholic marriage is an integral part of living fully the Catholic faith that you desire to share with your child. However, as long as you intend to take responsibility for raising your child in the Catholic faith, we do not refuse Baptism of the child. If you were not married in the Catholic Church, please advise the Pastor and he can arrange to have your marriage blessed.

How much will it cost to have our baby baptized?

A free-will donation is requested at the time of the Baptism to cover the cost of the preparation and the Baptism. However, we will never refuse to perform a Baptism for lack of a donation.

In which parish should we have our baby baptized?

Parents should have their babies baptized in the parish where they attend Sunday Mass regularly. The parish should be a place your children become familiar with and feel spiritually at home from

their earliest years. We ask that parents who want to have their babies baptized at Holy Spirit be registered parishioners of Holy Spirit and practice their faith here.

What if we attend Mass at Holy Spirit each Sunday, but have not registered as parishioners here?

We ask that you please register as soon as possible, either at our Parish office during regular business hours or obtain a registration form from the welcome packet in the church and drop it into the collection basket. There are also white "Welcome" envelopes in the pews.

We grew up in this parish, and consider it to be our home parish, but we are now attending Mass at another parish. Can our baby still be baptized at Holy Spirit?

Of course! If you consider us to be your home parish, we will be happy to accommodate your wishes and baptize your baby here. However, you will need to get a Letter of Good Standing from your current parish stating that you are active parishioners. Then, we will be able to proceed with the Baptism process here at Holy Spirit.

Contact Information:

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
537 North Highway 16 Denver, NC 28037
Office Phone: 704-483-6448
Pastor: Fr. Carmen Malacari