

11. **How much should I donate to the church?** A donation to your church is a tradition, dating back to the presentation by Mary and Joseph, of the Infant Jesus in the temple. Your donation should reflect your gratitude to God for your child, and the eternal life bestowed at baptism.

12. **When will I get the Certificate of Baptism?** The certificate will be given after the ceremony. Please preserve the certificate with your child's birth certificate.

**NOTE:**

- *Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates by contacting the office.*
- *Participation in a baptismal class at St Anthony's holds a validity of 3 (three) years. Please advise the office if this applies to your baptism date.*

**St Anthony of Padua Church**

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1. **What is Baptism?** Baptism is a Sacrament by which one becomes a child of God and is committed to live as such.
2. **How can a child make this commitment?** A child can make this commitment only through the parents who take the responsibility to raise the child in the practice of the faith by opportune instruction and by their personal example of faithfulness to God's Commandments.
3. **Why does the Church baptize babies?** The Catholic church believes that the baby would want to become a child of God if he simply knew what great honor and privilege this is. Parents who want the very best for their child do not wait until they are old enough to make this decision on their own; they make the decision for them, like they do for the kind of food, education, inheritance, etc., they want them to have for their own good. Children seven years of age or older, must receive religious education before being baptized.
4. **What is the role of the godparents?** The godparents represent the larger spiritual family, the parish, and they commit themselves to support the parents in seeing that the child does receive proper instruction in the faith and lives in accordance with it.

**5. Who can be a godparent?** Any fully initiated Catholic (baptized Catholic, must be at least 16 years of age, have received Communion and Confirmation.) If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church, must be practicing Catholics, in good standing with the church and who has accepted the obligation of supporting the parents in the fulfillment of their duty to raise the child in the Catholic Faith. A baptized non-catholic may not be a godparent, but may be an official witness to the baptism.

**6. When can I baptize my child and what do I need?** Refer to the “baptism dates” schedule on the back of this leaflet. Baptisms start PROMPTLY as scheduled. Latecomers will have to reschedule another date. Therefore, please be present in the church 15 minutes before the scheduled time.

**To register a child for baptism,**

***Parents must:***

- a. come into the office personally (that is the Father or Mother of the child).
- b. provide the birth certificate or notification of birth registration of the child (up to 6 months )
- c. have the “legal” names of the godparents.
- d. pre-register for the baptism class.
- e. **\$25.00** (includes the class for parents, book and baptism candle. (Non-refundable / Nontransferable)

***Godparents and Christian Witnesses must:***

Be of at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, and be practicing Catholics who are able to exemplify a good Catholic life.

- A baptized non-Catholic may not be a godparent but may be an official Christian witness to the baptism, as long as there is one Catholic godparent.

**(CIC: c. 874 §2) a baptized person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.**

Attend a baptismal preparation class before having your child baptized.

**7. Pre-baptismal Class:** \$15.00 (class only / per person). (Fee: baptism class and book for those interested in the class only). **Parents and Godparents must attend one baptism preparation class one month before the baptism. \*\*Pre-registration is required.**

Instruction begins promptly on scheduled time. If at all possible, please do not bring children to the instruction. Verification / Permission letters are provided the following Wednesday, after class attendance. (Permission must be granted for registered St Anthony’s parishioners baptizing elsewhere.) Class is held in the St Frances Conference Room. Be sure to sign-in upon arrival to verify your attendance.

**8. In which church should the child be baptized?** Children should be baptized in the parish of the parents. However, if this is not possible or desired, *a letter of permission from the pastor, of the child’s geographical church, should be obtained before arrangements are made for the baptism.*

**9. Who must be present at the baptism ceremony?** Both parents and godparents/witness must be present. When this is not possible, a proxy may be chosen to stand in for an absent godparent.

**10. Can we take pictures?** Photography and video cameras (without lights) are permitted. No one is allowed to wonder in the sanctuary. Please be considerate of other families, everyone must re-main within their designated place in the pews, until you approach the baptism font with your family. Additional photos will be allowed for a few minutes after the ceremony.