

St Anthony of Padua Church

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www.stanthonyfresno.org

- *NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates by contacting the office.*
- Participation in a baptismal class at St Anthony's maintains validity of three years. Please advise the office if this applies to your child's baptism.

Private baptisms are not available.



1. **What is Baptism?** Baptism is a Sacrament by which one becomes a child of God and is committed to live as such.
And heaven was opened for everyone who believes and is baptized—everyone who is born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5)
2. **How can a child make this commitment?** A child can make this commitment by way of the parents, who take the responsibility to raise the child in the practice of the catholic 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? A fully initiated Catholic (baptized catholic), in good standing with the church and who has accepted the obligation of helping the parents in the fulfillment of their duty to raise the child in the Catholic Faith. He/She must be at least 16 years of age, must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. If married, they must be married in the Church and must be practicing Catholics. *A baptized non-catholic may not be a godparent, but may be a Christian Witness to the baptism.*

6. When can I baptize my child and what do I need? The Baptism ceremony begins PROMPTLY as scheduled. Latecomers will have to reschedule on another day.

To register your 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.
- c. have the names of the godparents.
- d. register for the baptism class.
- e. **\$25.00** (Fee includes: baptism, *class for parents*, Baptism book and baptism candle.)

godparents must:

- a. provide a copy of their “*Church*” marriage certificate.
- b. and/or provide a copy of their confirmation certificate.
- c. provide a letter of good standing with their church.
- d. submit verification of Baptism preparation.

7. Pre- baptismal Class: \$15.00 (class only / per person). (Fee includes: baptism class and book for those interested in the class only). Godparents must attend one baptism preparation class generally three weeks before the baptism. Pre-registration is necessary.

7. Class cont’d: Instruction begins promptly on scheduled time. If at all possible, please do not bring children to the instruction, so that everyone can hear the presentation without distraction. Verification / Permission letters are given upon request after class. (**Permission must be granted for registered St Anthony’s parishioners baptizing elsewhere.**). Classes are in the St. France Conference Room. Be sure to sign-in upon arrival to verify your participation. Please contact the Baptism Coordinator for the Baptism Schedule.

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 desirable, a written permission from the pastor of the child’s 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 wander in the sanctuary. Please be considerate of other families, everyone must remain 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.

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 receive the Baptism Certificate? Your Baptism Certificate will be available after the ceremony.