

Saint Anselm Church Policies Regarding Baptism

To have your child baptized at St. Anselm Parish, you need to be **registered in our parish.**

1. Members of another parish may also have their child baptized in our church. **You will need a letter from the pastor of your parish stating that he gives permission for the baptism to take place at our parish.** Contact Fr. Jeff Stecz at the Parish Center for further details (215-637-3525 ext. 114).
2. **Baptisms are every Sunday (unless otherwise noted) after the 12 Noon Mass. Please be at the church by 1:00 PM.** As you enter the Church, please be seated in the area by the Baptismal font. If you would like to have a visiting priest or deacon or there is a need for a Baptism to be held other than on a Sunday, contact Fr. Jeff Stecz at the Parish Center so those arrangements can be made. **Baptisms with visiting priests or deacons are scheduled at 2:15 PM on Sundays or can be scheduled on a Saturday afternoon.**
3. **To be a Sponsor/Godparent, one must be a Catholic:**
 - a. Must be at least 16 years old and have received the Sacraments of **Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.**
 - b. Must be **registered in a parish** and be an **active Catholic** (Church going) **who if they have a family have their children Baptized and raised Catholic.**
 - c. **If married, they were married in the Catholic Church** before a Priest, Deacon or Bishop of the Catholic Church or received formal permission (Dispensation) from the Catholic Church to have their marriage before a rabbi or minister.
 - d. Must be living in a manner consistent with the moral teachings of the Church (ex. not cohabiting or living alternative lifestyles or married outside the Church).
 - e. **Must provide the parish with a "Letter of Eligibility" from his/her parish.** Godparents who are members of St. Anselm need to contact Fr. Jeff Stecz for eligibility. All letters are required to be in the parish **2 weeks** prior to the baptism.
 - f. There are only two Sponsors/Godparents, if you are selecting two you must select **"One male and One female Godparent."** **You are not permitted to have two males or two females as Godparents. Please remember that you only need to have one Catholic Godparent for the baptism of your child.**
 - g. A Catholic who is unable to receive a **"Letter of Eligibility"** may not stand as a Godparent or as a "proxy". From time to time, problems arise - if you are having a problem, please contact Fr. Jeff Stecz to discuss the issue.
4. **Non-Catholics who are Baptized** can sometimes act as a **Christian Witness** at a Baptism, but:
 - a. They can only serve if a Catholic is acting as a Sponsor.
 - b. The non-Catholic must be Baptized and a practicing Christian, either Protestant or Orthodox. They may not be Jewish, Muslim or a former Roman Catholic.
 - c. They will need to **show proof of their Baptism by bringing in a Baptismal Certificate or a letter from their Church** indicating they are Baptized and a practicing member of that church.
 - d. They need to be living in a manner consistent with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church- not cohabitating or living in a relationship not recognized by the Catholic Church.
5. In special cases, a person may be a Godparent or Christian Witness by proxy (meaning **"to stand in for"**). The proxy stands in for the Godparent or Christian Witness who is unable to be present at the church at the time of the baptism. Both proxy and Godparent/Christian Witness need to meet the above requirements.
6. **Today is a great celebration day for you and your child. Certainly, we encourage you to invite your family and friends to the Baptismal Ceremony and to take pictures to capture the event. Through your child's Baptism, they begin a lifelong journey with the Lord. It is a journey that will give them God's life-giving grace. Enjoy the day!**

Saint Anselm Baptismal Registration Form

Date of Baptism _____

Name of Child _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Date of Child's Birth _____ City of Birth _____
Boy _____ **Girl** _____ **Age of Child** _____ Due Date, if unborn _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

City & State _____ Apt. _____ Home Phone _____

Father's Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Father's Religion _____ Cell or Work Phone _____

Sacraments

Baptism: Yes _____ No _____ Eucharist: Yes _____ No _____ Confirmation: Yes _____ No _____

Mother's Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden)

Mother's Religion _____ Cell or Work Phone _____

Sacraments:

Baptism: Yes _____ No _____ Eucharist: Yes _____ No _____ Confirmation: Yes _____ No _____

Are you Married before a Catholic Priest/Deacon? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, Church of Marriage & Date _____

If Married outside the Catholic Church, please give place & date _____

Was a Church Dispensation formally granted? Yes _____ No _____

Did you attend the Baptismal Class (Pre Jordan) Yes _____ No _____ Date _____

*****If the class was more than 3 years ago, you will need to attend the class again.**

Are you registered in Saint Anselm Parish? Yes _____ No _____

If not at Saint Anselm, what Parish are you registered in? _____

Godfather's Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Religion _____ Parish _____

Godmother's Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Religion _____ Parish _____

Letter of Eligibility – Godfather _____ Godmother _____