

NEW WINE & NEW WINESKINS . . . Adult Ed & Formation

Many people are not aware what one must do to have their child baptized into the Catholic Faith. Some of the older parishioners have said, “all I did was bring my baby and the priest baptized her.” The Church calls for specific formation prior to the administration of sacraments since Vatican II. As other parishes have developed formal policies for baptism, we would like to share ours with you.

How do I Get My Child Baptized at St. Clare of Assisi Parish?

1. You must be active and registered members of St. Clare of Assisi Parish or have a connection to the parish. If you would like to have your child baptized and are not registered members of St. Clare, you must get a letter of permission from the pastor of your parish.
2. Telephone the Parish offices to register for Baptism Preparation Class. These classes are given quarterly. Parents and Godparents are to attend. It is good to attend the class in the final tri-mester of your pregnancy.
3. Godparents — Although it is traditional that a child being baptized have both a godmother and a godfather, only one is required for the validity of the sacrament. A godparent must be: at least sixteen years of age; a Catholic who has received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation; a practicing Catholic; if married, living in a sacramentally valid marriage. Godparents who are not members of Saint Clare of Assisi Parish are to obtain a letter of eligibility from the parish in which they are registered. A baptized person who belongs to another Christian church (not Catholic) may be asked, to serve not as godparent, but as a Christian witness as long as a Catholic godparent is also present. Catholics who have abandoned the Catholic faith are not to serve as Christian witnesses.

What if I am not currently going to Church?

Canon Law #868 states: *1: For the licit baptism of an infant it is necessary that:*

- 1. The parents or at least one of them or the person who lawfully takes their place give consent;*
- 2. There be a founded hope (spes fundata) that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such a hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be put off according to the prescriptions of particular law, and the parents are to be informed of the reason.*

After much thought and consultation with the Education & Worship Committees and the support of St. Clare of Assisi Pastoral Council the following policy has been adopted by the parish: *That the administration of the sacrament of Baptism be delayed until the parents have shown good faith, by attending weekly worship for a three month period. Baptism class may be taken during this three month period so not to delay the administration of the sacrament any longer.*

The same principles would apply when parents bring their children for other sacraments.

If you have any further questions, please telephone the parish offices and speak with a priest.