



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **When do baptisms take place at St Frances of Rome Parish? Is the baptism part of a Mass?**

A: Generally, St Frances of Rome Parish schedules one Sunday each quarter for communal baptisms (up to three children). *During the unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are scheduling baptisms on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Pastoral Associate for current details.*

### **What if I want to schedule my baby's baptism on a specific date/time?**

St Frances of Rome Parish designates one Sunday each quarter for communal baptisms. Our practice is to schedule your child's baptism for the first such Sunday after the completion of your Baptism Preparation Classes and submission of all required documentation to the parish office. *During the unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are scheduling baptisms on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Pastoral Associate for current details.*

### **Can I schedule a private baptism?**

Generally, no. As a community, we love to welcome our newest Catholics by celebrating baptisms during Sunday Masses: this is a fitting symbol of the entrance of the child into the faith life of the parish. However, there may be special situations and valid reasons for a private baptism, but this is decided at the pastor's discretion. Contact Father Lou directly if you would like to inquire about a private baptism.

### **I am not a Catholic (fully initiated through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Can my child still be baptized?**

Yes! Please talk with the Pastoral Associate about raising your child in the Catholic faith and whether you or your spouse might be interested in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in the future.

### **I am a single parent. Can my child still be baptized?**

Yes!

### **I am not married by a priest or in the Catholic Church. Can my child still be baptized?**

Yes!

### **I can't find any godparent that meets all of the requirements. What should I do?**

If you are new to the parish or have been away from the Church, we encourage you to use this time of preparation for your child's baptism to begin attending Mass regularly and getting involved in our parish community. It is our hope that through this active participation in the life of St Frances of Rome Parish you will meet many wonderful prospective godparents among our parishioners! Please also reach out to the Pastoral Associate, who can help you get connected with companions for your faith journey and that of your child.

### **What should I bring to my child's baptism? Do I need to bring the candle or other items?**

Just bring yourself, your child, and the godparents. We will provide everything else!