

**CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The Sacrament of Baptism is one of the Sacraments of Initiation followed by Eucharist and Confirmation. Baptism is the first step one takes to be a member of the Roman Catholic community. Once one is baptized, one is a member of the Catholic Church. The Church is a community of believing people who share a common belief and practice around the person of Jesus Christ and what He did for the salvation of all.

The godparent is in place to help the parent educate the child in their faith. This is one of the reasons that a Catholic godparent is requested.

1. Do I need to be a member of Little Flower parish in order to have my child baptized here?

Yes, parents should be members of the parish prior to having their child baptized at Little Flower. However, there are extenuating circumstances that allow non-members of the parish to have their child baptized at Little Flower.

2. Are the godparents required to be Catholic?

One of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic having received the sacrament of Confirmation. The other godparent is either Catholic or a non-Catholic Christian. The Baptismal certificate will then list the non-Catholic as a Christian witness.

3. What if I have a close relative who is Jewish or atheist – can they be a godparent to my child?

No, one godparent must be a Catholic, but a second godparent may be a non-Catholic Christian. A godparent should be a person who believes in Jesus Christ and is able to pronounce the vows of Baptism for the child.

4. Does Little Flower require proof from a godparent's parish of their good standing?

No proof is required from the parish of the godparent. The assumption is that the parents are practicing Catholics.

5. Can we have either two godmothers or two godfathers?

While it is preferable to have one godmother and one godfather, certain circumstances will allow two godmothers or two godfathers.

6. Can I bring in a priest or deacon from another church to perform the Baptism on my child?

Yes you may invite a priest or deacon from another parish. The priest or deacon should contact our pastor to ask permission and he will be required to submit proof of his good standing in his current diocese. The family must then work with the office staff to complete paperwork, attend a preparation session, and assure entrance into the Little Church on the Baptism day.

7. Are Baptisms allowed outside of those scheduled during the Masses?

Part of the Baptism ceremony is welcoming the child into the community; hence we have Baptisms at certain Masses during the year.

8. Is there a stipend for having a child baptized at Little Flower?

There is no mandatory stipend for having a Baptism at Little Flower Parish. It is customary for the family to make a donation according to their means. This donation should be in the form of a check made out to the parish and placed in an envelope marked Baptism donation. The envelope can then be placed in the collection basket during Mass for presentation to the celebrant at Mass.