

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
Virginia Beach, VA
FAQ for Infant Baptism (Ages 0 to 6)

- ❖ **Who can receive a Catholic Baptism?** Anyone who is not already baptized. There is no age restriction, however, the process is different for those who are 7 years old and up.
- ❖ **When is the Sacrament of Baptism celebrated?** Baptisms in English take place on Sundays throughout the year. Baptisms in Spanish take place on Saturdays.
- ❖ **How do I begin the process?** Attend one of our information meetings which are held on the 4th Monday of the month or contact our church office. Parents are highly encouraged to begin the process before the child is born.
- ❖ **What do I need?** You will need a copy of your child's birth certificate to ensure accuracy of our sacramental records. In addition, a registration form and godparent attestation forms need to be completed.
- ❖ **Do I need to take a class?** If this is your first child to be baptized at St. Gregory's, you will need to complete both parts of our preparation program:
 - An online video-based program about Baptism that you can do at home. This may be waived if you took a class at another parish within the past 3 years.
 - A one-hour in-person class for those who have not had a child baptized at St. Gregory's.
- ❖ **Who can be a godparent?** Godparents are role models for the child and are expected to help the parents raise the child in the Catholic Faith. Every child needs at least one godparent, but most have a godmother and a godfather. Godparents must be practicing Catholics who have received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). If they are married, they must also have been married in the Church.
- ❖ **What should my child wear?** There are no rules on what your child should wear for the baptism. We ask that hats or bonnets be able to be removed easily and that the neckline be loose so that the minister can anoint your child. The baptism candle and "white garment" (single piece of white fabric) will be supplied by the Church.
- ❖ **Is there a fee?** No, however, it is customary to give the celebrating priest or deacon a financial stipend as a thank you. The amount is strictly up to you. Checks should be made out to the officiating priest or deacon.

Thank you for passing on the faith to your child! We rejoice with you and look forward to celebrating this newest member of the family of God. We are here to assist you in every way. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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