

Baptizing Your Child

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs About Booking the Baptism & Fees

- ***How do I book my child's Baptism in with the church?***
 - To begin, please fill out the parish's *Baptism Form* and submit to the parish. Once the parish has received your form, we will reach out for further instructions (if Baptism course is needed, desired dates & times for Baptism, etc.)
- ***Is there a fee / do I have to pay to have my child Baptized?***
 - The church does not require a fee for Baptism but a donation is customary. Suggested donation amounts are \$50 for parishioners and \$150 for non-parishioners. The parish understands amounts vary for different families based on personal budgets.
- ***How would I go about making a donation to the parish for my child's Baptism?***
 - Donations can be made in the following three ways:
 1. **Cash** – recommended for cash to be placed in a card and given to the priest or parish office.
 2. **Cheque** – please make cheques out to 'St. Charles Garnier Parish' and give to either the priest or parish office. In the memo section of the cheque, please write 'Baptism' and your child's name.

FAQs Regarding Baptism Preparation Course

- ***Do I need to take a Baptism Preparation Course?***
 - If this is your first child getting Baptized then you would need to take the course. If this is your second + child getting Baptized, then you do not need to take the course.
- ***How do I book the Baptism Preparation Course?***
 - Reach out to formation.scg.kelowna@nelsondiocese.org to book in your course and receive further instructions.
- ***My child is not a baby; do I still follow the same steps for booking and preparing for their Baptism?***
 - If your child is 7 or younger, please follow the same process for Baptism
 - If your child is older than 7 years old, they can comprehend and be more involved in the preparation process. Please reach out to formation.scg.kelowna@nelsondiocese.org for next steps on preparing your older child for Baptism.

FAQs Regarding Parents

- ***Do both parents need to be Catholic to have our child Baptized? What do I do if I am Catholic by my spouse is not Catholic?***
 - It is not required for both parents to be Catholic but the hope is to raise the child in the Catholic faith and that should be acknowledged. In the event that neither parent is a practising Catholic, they may have another family member present and agree to raise the child in the faith.
- ***Can the child be Baptized if the parents are not married and/or not married in the Catholic church?***
 - The child can still be Baptized. If parents are hoping to have their marriage recognized in the Catholic Church, we invite you to speak with the parish priest about convalidation.

FAQs Regarding Godparents

- ***How many godparents do I need?***
 - You need at least one godparent. Traditionally we recommend two (one male, one female) but this is the suggestion.
- ***Can grandparents be the godparents?***
 - If contemplating to have grandparents be the godparents, please speak with the parish first.
- ***Can I have more than the suggested two godparents?***
 - If you have more than two godparents, please note that only two will be listed on the certificate and with the Diocese of Nelson (the diocesan system and certificate only allow two godparent spaces).
- ***What are the requirements to be a godparent?***
 - At least one godparent must meet the following requirements:
 - Practising Catholic who has received all three of their initiation Sacraments (Baptism, Holy Eucharist & Confirmation)
 - At least 16 years of age
 - Have a valid Sacramental Marriage (if married)
 - Cannot be the parents of the child
- ***What is the role or purpose of the godparents?***
 - To be a good example & spiritual mentor to the child in their life. They will help pass along the faith and support the child with their faith throughout their life.
- ***When should I submit the Godparent Forms to the parish for my child's Baptism?***
 - Please submit the forms no later than one week before the Baptism date so that the godparent's names can be added to the Baptism Certificate.
- ***What do I do if a godparent cannot make the Baptism date?***
 - You may have a proxy stand in their place. For more information regarding proxies, please reach out to formation.scg.kelowna@nelsondiocese.org.
- ***What if we don't have a Catholic family or friend to be a godparent?***
 - The parish is happy to provide guidance and assist you with identifying a practising Catholic member of the community who may step forward as godparent.

FAQs About What to Expect During the Baptism

- ***Where do we sit? Is there reserved seating?***

- o The child, parents and godparents should sit in the front row of the church closest to the altar. If the Baptism is during one of the Sunday Masses, then we recommend us putting up reserved signs for you.
- ***Where will the Baptismal Font be?***
 - o It will be in front of the steps that go up to the altar
- ***How early should we arrive on the day?***
 - o It is recommended to arrive 10-15 minutes beforehand. It is also recommended that you touch base with the priest, letting him know you have arrived.
- ***Who holds the baby during the Baptism?***
 - o One of the parents usually holds the baby
- ***What should the child wear?***
 - o Traditionally the child would wear white – symbolizes that he or she has been clothed with Christ
- ***Do I need to provide anything for the Baptism itself?***
 - o No, the parish will provide all that is needed, including the Baptismal Candle.

FAQs Regarding Hall Use After Baptism

- ***Can we use the hall after Baptism?***
 - o Yes, if available and prearranged with the parish office. The use of the hall will also depend if you have booked a private Baptism or Baptism during one of the regular weekend Masses. **Please refer to the Hall Rental for Baptism Information forms for more details.**
- ***Where can I find more information about utilizing the hall and fees?***
 - o Please refer to our “Hall Rental Information for Baptisms” sheet, found near the parish office on our formation information corner.

Miscellaneous FAQs

- ***How formal should the parents, godparents and guests dress for the Baptism?***
 - o We recommend ‘Sunday Best’ or like you are going out for a nice dinner.
- ***After my child’s Baptism, do I need to keep the Baptismal Certificate?***
 - o Ideally yes, you would file it somewhere safe as this certificate will need to be presented for future Sacraments (such as 1st Communion, Confirmation, etc.). In the rare occasion that you lose the certificate, you can contact the parish for a replacement.
- ***Can we take photos during the Baptism? Is it appropriate to ask the priest to take photos with us after the Baptism?***
 - o Yes, you may take photos during the Baptism. Please ask everyone who will be taking photos to remember the church is a sacred space and to be respectful.
 - o You may ask the priest to take photos with you after the Baptism but please respect their time and response to your request.