SAINT BRENDAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR BAPTISM[[1]](#footnote-1)

We’re thrilled you’d like to have your child baptized at Saint Brendan Church and to raise him or her to practice the Catholic faith as a member of the family of God and as a member of the local parish community.

Baptisms normally are celebrated on the third Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. or during Mass on the fourth Sunday of January, April, August, and December.

But there are a few things that we ask of you as parents. First, you should be registered in the parish. If you’re not registered, we’d be happy to get you signed up. On the other hand, if you’re a member somewhere else, we can baptize your child with a letter from the pastor of your parish. If none of these circumstances fit, let’s talk about it.

Also, at least one parent should be a practicing Catholic, and it’s best if both of you are married in the Church. Again, we would be happy to talk with you about various options, if you’re not married or were only civilly married. If you’re not Catholic and interested in entering the Church, just let us know and we’ll help you get started.

We’ll also need you to attend a baptismal preparation class before the big day. We generally hold our classes on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Office at 29 Rockaway Avenue. If you’ve already attended a class within the last three years, just send us a valid certificate from the Catholic parish where you took the class.

Finally, you’ll need to pick one (male or female) or two godparents (male and female). Both godparent(s) should be baptized and confirmed, at least sixteen years of age, and practicing Catholics in good standing with the Catholic Church.[[2]](#footnote-2) A validly baptized person who belongs to a Protestant church may participate in the baptism as a witness, as long as there is a Catholic godparent.[[3]](#footnote-3) Godparents should be role models in the faith. It is a lifelong responsibility. The godparents should attend a baptismal preparation class together with the parents of the child to be baptized, but if this is not possible, they can send us a certificate of completion from another parish.

All sacraments are free and cannot be bought. But if you’d like to make a donation to the priest and/or the parish, donations are gratefully received.

Please call us at (415) 681-4225, or submit a request through our website [contact form](http://www.stbrendanparish.org/form--general-contact.html).

1. These guidelines apply to children who are under the age of seven. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A Catholic “in good standing” means a member of the Catholic Church who accepts the Church’s teachings in their entirety, is not under any canonical penalties, and observes the Precepts of the Church, which include regular attendance at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation as well as fruitful participation in the sacraments. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This person cannot be a baptized Catholic who has joined another ecclesial community. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)