

ST. BRENDAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR BAPTISM<sup>1</sup>

We're thrilled you'd like to have your child baptized at Saint Brendan Church. By seeking to have him or her initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism, it is your desire to raise your child to practice the Catholic faith as a member of the family of God and as a member of the local parish community.

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 is 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 first Sunday of the month from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the convent conference room, 234 Ulloa Street. 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> These guidelines apply to children who are under the age of seven.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> This person cannot be a baptized Catholic who has joined another ecclesial community.