



BAPTISMS AT ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CHURCH

“Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission.”

Congratulations!

Baptism begins your child’s journey of faith. As a welcoming parish community, St. Ignatius of Loyola Church is committed to help you in every possible way as you raise your child in faith.

Like all of the sacraments, Baptism is primarily about our connection to Jesus Christ. Jesus himself was baptized at the beginning of his ministry, and Baptism has been a hallmark of Christian identity since the time of the apostles. In other words, Baptism connects us to Christ, and through him connects us to all of the other baptized. The following guidelines are presented to help you embark upon this journey of faith with Christ and his Church.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian initiation that makes a person a member of Christ and His Church, thus being the way to a new and spiritual life. It is administered by immersing the recipient in water or by pouring water on the person’s head “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. One must be baptized before sharing in any of the other sacraments. Baptism is the foundation for all ministry and life in the church, and confers a commitment to follow Christ and spread his message throughout the world.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INFANT BAPTISM?

In order that a child be baptized,

- Parents are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism as soon after birth as possible. Except in case of necessity, the church is the usual place of Baptism.
- It is necessary that the parents consent, at least one of them or someone legally standing in their place, that they intend to raise the child in the Catholic Faith.
- Each parent must attend a Baptism Preparation Session.
- All children who are baptized must have at least one godparent.
- Infant Baptism is for children from birth until they reach the age of five.
- Families with school-age children looking to begin their Christian initiation through Baptism should contact our Faith Formation Office to discuss preparation for the sacrament.

WHERE SHOULD OUR CHILD BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism, like all of the sacraments, is a celebration of a living relationship with God and with your local believing community, the parish. The sacraments are celebrations of our Church and, as such, are normally celebrated in the parish where the family is registered and normally worships.

If, for a good pastoral reason (for example, so extended family may attend), parents wish to have their child baptized in another parish, they need to approach that parish to ask if it can baptize their child. Parents must attend Baptismal Preparation at the parish where the family usually worships and provides a letter from the Pastor of the parish confirming Baptismal Prep has been completed and permission is given to have the baby baptized in another parish.

If you are affiliated with Boston College and have a Boston College priest or deacon as your presider, parents would complete the Baptismal Prep with their presider. The presider can confirm with St. Ignatius that Baptismal Prep has been completed.

If you don't have a regular parish, this is a great opportunity to find a faith community wherever you are living. You can likely find your local parish through your diocese's website or just through a Google search. Alternatively, if there's a parish in your area that you know you'd like to join, attend a weekend Mass.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Registered Parishioners

- First time parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation session with Sr. Diane Vallerio.
- If you have done Baptismal Prep for another child, please contact Sr. Diane to discuss your past preparation.

Non Parishioners

- If you are from another parish out of town, you would do your preparation at your parish. A letter from the parish confirming you have completed the preparation would be required.
- If you have a visiting priest or deacon, you would complete the Baptismal Prep with your presider who could confirm with St. Ignatius that the Baptismal Prep has been completed.

WHEN ARE BAPTISM SCHEDULED?

Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year (except for major holy days and holidays).

Registered Parishioners

- Parish Baptisms are held once or twice a month, depending on need and availability.
- A maximum of two to three families are baptized during the ceremony.

Scheduling with a Boston College or Visiting Presider

- If you have a visiting priest or deacon, you would coordinate with the Parish Office and the presider on date availability.

Bautizos

- Los bautismos en español se celebran normalmente durante o después de la Misa dominical de las 12:30; pero otros momentos son posibles dependiendo de la disponibilidad de un sacerdote o diácono para presidir. Los padres que bautizan a su hijo por primera vez deben participar en una sesión de Preparación Bautismal, los padrinos son bienvenidos a participar. Las sesiones suelen celebrarse un domingo al mes por la mañana. Póngase en contacto con Berta Alvarado para más información.

CHOOSING GODPARENTS/SPONSORS

Godparents serve as models of faith and help the parents to raise the child in leading a Christian life. They represent the Christian community into which the child is being initiated.

You need to have at least one person, and no more than two, who meets the following criteria:

- At least 16 years old
- A practicing Catholic, living according to the faith and fully initiated through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Not the child's father or mother
- If you want to have two people of the same gender be godparents to your child and they both meet the above criteria, you're fine. On the formal documentation, one will be listed as the "sponsor" (read: official godparent) and the other will be listed as the "witness of the Baptism."
- Any baptized Christian can be a "witness of the Baptism," to pair alongside an official Catholic godparent. If you've got a friend who is Jewish, Hindu, or of any other non-Christian religion, they cannot be listed as a witness of the Baptism. No matter how virtuous they are or how well they live out their own faith, Baptism is about our belief in Christ. Again, the goal of choosing a godparent is to find someone who will help your child grow as a disciple of Christ.

ON THE BAPTISM DAY

- The church will be opened a half hour before the baptism.
- Arrive about 15 minutes before scheduled celebration time.
- Entrance and exit are through the main front doors.
- If access to the handicapped entrance is needed, please inform the parish office ahead of time.
- You have the use of the church for a total of one hour on the day of the Baptism, beginning 15 minutes before your scheduled start time. For example, if the Baptism is scheduled for 10:00am, you would have use of the church from 9:45am-10:45am.

THE CEREMONY

Baptism Prep will give you more information, but here are some key parts of the liturgy.

Prayer of Exorcism

Yes, you read that right. No, your baby isn't possessed, no matter how loudly they scream and cry. The key line of this prayer is, "We pray for this child: set him/her free from original sin, and make him/her a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell with him/her." This prayer is about cleansing the baby from original sin, which is one of the key effects of Baptism.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

This is the big moment for the parents and godparent(s). The presider will ask them if they reject Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises. After the renunciation of sin, the presider will ask the parents and godparents to affirm the statements of the Apostles' Creed.

The Baptism

Now it's the big moment for the baby! The presider will pour water over the child's head, saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." As soon as the priest or deacon pours the water and says those words, congratulations! Your child is now the newest member of the Christian community!

Anointing after Baptism

After the pouring of the water, the presider will anoint your child's head with sacred chrism, a perfumed oil. Chrism only gets used for three things: anointing the newly-baptized, anointing people receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, and anointing the hands of newly-ordained priests. The fact that chrism is only used for these three moments speaks to the power of Baptism. Its connection to Confirmation points out how Baptism begins the process of initiation into the Christian community, which will be completed at Confirmation. The ceremony will conclude with the lighting of your child's baptismal candle, and the closing prayers.

OFFERING

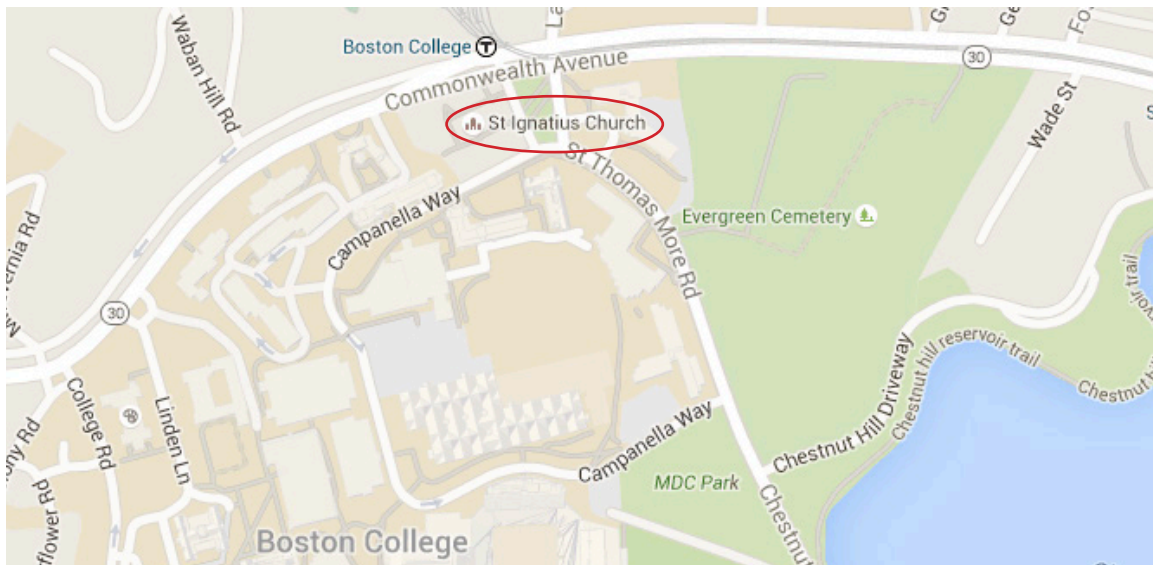
The suggested donation is \$175. Your donation with a completed Baptism Form needs to be received to guarantee your requested date and time. You can make this offering:

- by check made payable to St. Ignatius Church.
- by credit card at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stignatius>, select baptism donation
- by Venmo: Stignatius-Church.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Parking is available in the parking lot beside the church and in front of the church on Fr. Herlihy Drive. Additional parking is available in the Boston College garage, which is beyond the church parking lot on the right side of Campanella Way, there is a parking fee. There are handicapped parking spaces on Commonwealth Avenue and at the top of the parish office driveway just behind the church. Please observe and honor all posted parking signage; vehicles may be towed. We ask that you provide those attending with this information.

St. Ignatius of Loyola Church is located at 28 Commonwealth Avenue by Boston College in the picturesque Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Newton, just a short drive from downtown Boston and accessible by public transportation. For navigation purposes, note that our Church is in Chestnut Hill, not Boston.



**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GROWING FAMILY!
MAY GOD GRANT YOU ALL OF LIFE'S BLESSINGS AND LOVE'S JOYS.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
BECOMING INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.**



SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CHURCH
28 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
stignatiuschestnuthill.org

Contact:

For Parish Baptisms: Sr. Diane Vallerio 617.552.6107, vallerio@bc.edu

For Bautizos: Berta Alvarado, ignatius@bc.edu

For Other Assistance: Carol Russo 617.552.6102, russocu@bc.edu

Resources

The Jesuit Post, Catholic 101: Planning a Catholic Baptism