

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish Baptism Guidelines

Congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate the gift of new life. It is with joy that the Church receives your child as a candidate into the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the great Sacrament of Initiation which makes us children of God and children of the Church. Baptism is the beginning of your child's faith life. A life, that will be filled with the love of God. In presenting your child for Baptism, you assume the duty of training your child by word and example to love God and neighbor, and to be faithful members of the Church.

Please make note of the following guidelines for Baptism:

- Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month: Saturday at 11:00am or Sunday at 1:00pm. Please contact the parish office to arrange a date for Baptism 732-793-7291.
- Because Baptism brings your child into membership of the Parish Community, parents are welcomed to register as parishioners of St. Pio of Pietrelcina Church if they are not already parishioners.
- The Church gives specific guidelines for Godparents. All Catholics acting as Godparents must be sixteen (16) years of age or older. They must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation and if married, the marriage must have been celebrated by a Catholic Priest or Deacon in a Catholic Church. They are to be Catholics in good standing – practicing their faith. They must present a Certificate of Eligibility issued from the Church where they are registered. This certificate is to be brought to the parish office **before** the Baptism.
- There are **NO** exceptions to these requirements for Catholics. One certified Catholic in good standing must be present at the ceremony.
- If you request a non-Catholic to be involved in the Baptism, he/she must be a baptized Christian. Non-Catholics are called Christian Witnesses. Catholics who do not meet the listed requirements may **not** be Christian Witnesses. They should be faithful in the practice of their faith. The Church views Godparents and Christian Witnesses as a religious responsibility and not as a social role. So please be conscious of these guidelines as you choose Godparents for your child.
- Feel free to bring whatever is necessary to make your child comfortable during the Baptism ceremony. Family members and guests are cordially invited.
- A free-will donation for the Church helps to offset the cost of the Liturgy. Your generosity is appreciated.

Thank you and God bless you as you plan this memorable day in the life of your child and family.