

## **Day 145 – Monday, August 10 - Baptism - Frequently Asked Questions**

I will be away all dasy [tomorrow](#), so I thought I would send my musings out a day early.

### **Baptism** - Frequently Asked Questions – *From the Archdiocese of Toronto*

#### **6. Must we give our child the name of a saint to be baptized?**

A baptismal name that is offensive to Christians is not permitted; a saint's name is encouraged, but not necessary.

#### **7. Does my Parish Church keep a record of my Baptism?**

Yes. The basic entry includes: name; date and place of birth of the baptized; minister of the sacrament; parents (including mother's maiden name); godparent(s), sponsor(s), and Christian witness(es); date and place (if outside the parish) of the conferred baptism (Canon 877).

#### **8. Can our child be baptized if we're not practicing Catholics?**

Baptism is more than a rite of passage for a child or a washing away of original sin. Baptism is a sharing in the life of the risen Christ. Baptism is also the first step of initiation into the Christian community. During the Rite of Baptism, parents promise to raise their child in the practice of the faith. Parents who are not practicing members of the community may be asked to delay the Baptism of their child until they have re-established that connection by participation in Sunday Eucharist.

#### **9. Can our child be baptized if we're not married?**

Not married in the Church? Your child's Baptism and your marriage are two separate issues. Your marital status may be discussed during your Baptism interview to encourage you to get married (or validate your marriage in the Church) if this is appropriate. However, as long as you are committed to raising your child as a Catholic, he/she may celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and be welcomed into the Catholic Church.

#### **10. Who can be godparents?**

Since godparents take on two roles - that of support for the parents in the Catholic upbringing of their child, and that of representing the Christian community into which the child is being initiated - they must be practicing Catholics (fully initiated through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) who are mature enough (usually at least 16 years of age) to undertake this role. (Code of Canon Law, Canon 872)

A godparent does not need to be the same gender as the candidate for Baptism. The godparent assumes no legal responsibility for the child.

#### **11. Can a parent serve as a godparent?**

A parent may not serve as a godparent because the parent already has a distinct role and relationship with the child. A godparent's role is separate from that of a parent or legal guardian.

*In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein