

Baptism

In Phase II, the Sacrament of Baptism is allowed outside of Mass for one or more families. The directives for physical distancing and restrictions on the number of people gathered must be observed. The following additional guidelines are to be followed:

1. Everyone must wear a facial covering, including the minister of the Sacrament. (Children under two years old do not wear face coverings.)
2. The floor around the baptismal font should be marked with removable tape so that people are standing at least 6 feet apart during the Sacrament.
3. Only fresh water is to be used for each Baptism. In addition, the baptismal font should be fitted with a glass or metal bowl so that the blessed water may be removed afterward.
4. For Baptisms with more than one infant from different families: when pouring the blessed water over the infant's head, the blessed water should not be poured into the vessel from which the water was taken.
5. A shell or other vessel is to be used to pour water over the infant's head instead of the minister's hand.
6. For anointing, a cotton ball or swab should be used to apply the oil to the infant, so that there is no physical contact between the minister and the infant.
7. In order to limit the handling of certain items by multiple people, the Godparent (or whomever will hold the baptismal candle) should pick up the baptismal candle and light it from the Paschal candle. This will prevent the minister from having to hand it directly to that person.
8. When the celebration concludes, the blessed water should be poured down the sacrarium, or into the ground on church property, if there is no sacrarium. The cotton should be burned and any items used during the Baptism (the shell or vessel, baptismal font, etc.) should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.