



The Importance of Baptism

Congratulations! As you begin preparing for the baptism of your child, you are taking a big step forward in the spiritual life of your family. Baptism is necessary for salvation. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted Baptism as the means of removing original sin from our souls, of being born again and incorporated into His Mystical Body, and of becoming members of His Church. In baptism we receive a new identity as beloved sons and daughters of God. There is nothing else more important for you right now than to ensure that you and your family members are baptized and that all of you grow in your baptismal identity as children of God.

What Are the Requirements for Catholic Baptisms?

Baptism is available for every person. Our Lord desires the salvation of all mankind, and He established Baptism as the means for our salvation. As such, it is necessary for salvation. In order to ensure that everyone who desires Baptism understands its importance, there are certain requirements for Baptism.

Age

Infant baptism is for children from birth until typically their seventh birthday.

Documents: Child's original birth certificate.

Godparents: Each child must have at least one godparent who is 16 years or older. Godparents **must provide proof of receiving the three sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.** If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. *The role of the godparent is to help your child grow in their faith and their identity as a child of God.* Therefore, godparents must be living a life in conformity with the teachings of the Church. In the Catholic understanding of the role, godparents are not necessarily the ones who take care of your child in your absence.

Press the link below for a video explanation.

<https://youtu.be/zK8i4zp37HQ?si=-nxqLIHKZrMltR13>

Parents: Must be registered or domiciled at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. If one or both parents are not Catholic, an authorization letter is required from non-Catholic parent.

Location: Ideally, infants should be baptized in the parish where their parents are registered and attend Sunday mass.

Godparents: Are required to submit a completed Sponsor Eligibility Form. proof of Sacraments of Confirmation and Sacramental Marriage.

Preparation Class: All parents and godparents must attend baptism preparation classes. All forms must be submitted prior to scheduling a date for Preparation Classes. Godparents belonging to another parish can complete their preparation class at their home parish.

Forms can be found at www.stacatholic.org/baptism

May God Bless you,

Ingrid López-Echegaray / ilopez@stacatholic.org / phone: 321-485-6113