

Baptismal Classes

Date	Location	Topic
By the last Friday of each month for Baptism in the following month	Parish Office	Parents' Registration for Baptismal Classes
1 st Thursday of the Month	St. Therese Hall	Welcome and Application Selection of Godparents
2 nd Thursday of the Month	St. Therese Hall	Theology of Baptism Rite of Baptism
3 rd Sunday of the Month (or other scheduled date)	Parish Church	Celebration of Baptism

The following must be provided before the Baptismal Date is Scheduled:

- ___ Application for Infant Baptism
- ___ Child's Birth Certificate (copy)
- ___ \$20.00 Baptismal Fee for Baptismal Candle, Bib, Certificates, Recording
- ___ Verification of Godparents Suitability as Baptismal Sponsors

*****If Necessary*****

___ Sponsors' Baptismal and/or other Sacramental Certificates
 Required Yes / No Received : date _____ Initials _____

___ If registered at another parish, letter of permission to have the child
 Baptized at Saint Joseph Catholic Church.
 Required Yes / No Received : date _____ Initials _____

Instructors

- Deacon Luis Trevino (Baptismal Coordinator)
- Deacon Russell Duggins
- Deacon Paul Matula
- Deacon Rolando Salazar

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Saint Joseph Catholic Church

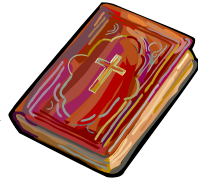
Beeville, Texas

Guidelines for Infant Baptism



“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and re-born as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: ‘Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.’” - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213*

Saint Joseph Catholic Church, in keeping with policies set forth by the Diocese of Corpus Christi and Canon Law (#851.2) on the sacrament of baptism, has established the following guidelines which require that adults involved in infant baptism receive a minimum of 3 to 6 hours of catechesis. In conformity with these guidelines our classes will be a requirement of all parents and God parents before their child can be baptized.



The following steps have been set out in an effort to reduce confusion and further along the process of instruction and baptism in a timely manner:

1. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the child to be baptized will pick-up the "Application for Infant Baptism" Form at the Parish Office.
2. The child to be baptized must not be older than six years of age. Children that are seven years of age and older shall be enrolled in the *Children's Catechumenate Program* through the Office of Faith Formation.
3. The parents are to notify the parish office in which month that they and the Godparents will attend the Baptismal Preparation Classes. Registration for the Baptismal Class is required before the last Friday of each month.
4. The parents, if they are not presently registered, at the time of picking up the Infant Baptism Application will complete a "parish registration form"
5. After the parents and Godparents have completed both of the baptismal instruction sessions and have shown a reasonable hope for the infant's upbringing in the faith, the date for their child's baptism will be scheduled.
6. A copy of the child's civil birth certificate MUST be presented at the first class with the completed "Application for Infant Baptism". (This is the official legal certificate that comes from the county courthouse.)
7. Godparents may be required to provide written proof of having received all sacraments of Initiation. Godparents MUST be Practical Catholics, that means that they are: 1) living and practicing their Faith; 2) regularly going to Church; 3) regularly going to Confession and Communion; 4) if single, not living with a person as a married couple; or 5) if married, married through the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church.
8. Godparents and parents may be required to provide written proof of having attended baptismal instruction from another Catholic parish if they are coming to Saint Joseph Church for their child's or Godchild's baptism.
9. Attendance at the classes held at St. Joseph Church are valid for three (3) years. When a baptism is being performed at a parish other than St. Joseph Catholic Church, written proof can be provided by the parish office to parents or Godparents of instruction and/or permission.
10. The following four (4) items MUST be provided before your Child's Baptismal Date is Scheduled: (1) Application for Infant Baptism; (2) Child's Civil Birth Certificate; (3) \$20.00 Baptismal Fee; and (4) Verification of Godparents Suitability as Sacramental Sponsors. If the parents of the Child to be baptized are from another Catholic parish, a letter of permission to have your child baptized at St. Joseph Church is required by Canon Law.

The Qualifications and Role of Sponsors (Godparents)

The sponsors, together with the parents, are present to profess the Church's faith, in which the child is being baptized. Godparents are spiritual guardians, after the parents, of the gift of faith and its flowering in the life the child baptized. Therefore, in order to be appointed sponsor, the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it. (Canon Law # 872)

To be admitted to the role of sponsor (Godparent), a person must:

- Not be the Father or the Mother of the one baptized,
- Be appointed by the candidate for Baptism, or in the case of infants by the parents or whoever stands in their place.
- be mature enough to undertake this responsibility, having completed their 16th year;
- be a Catholic who has received the three sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist: and lives a life of faith which befits the role undertaken.
- If single, this potential sponsor is not currently living with someone as a couple outside of marriage (i.e. cohabitating or common law marriage)
- If married, the sponsor must be married through the Catholic Church.
- The potential sponsor must be a practicing Roman Catholic. Meaning the sponsor must be in good standing with the Church, goes to Church on Sundays, goes to Confession, and receives Communion. (A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community together with a Catholic sponsor can serve as a witness of the baptism.)



Only two items are needed for the Celebration of Baptism:

White Garment: In the early Church, as the candidate for Baptism rejected sin, Satan, and their former way of life, they would shed their old clothes. After being baptized in the clear cleansing Waters of Life, the newly admitted members to the Church Community, would put on new white garments as noted in the Book of Revelation "that the saints of God stood around the Throne of God wearing long white robes washed in the Blood of the Lamb". This tradition continues today in the White Baptismal Garment, the White First Communion Dress, and the White Wedding Dress — the new Saint of God wearing their white heavenly garment. While a token small white garment will be given to the newly baptized child from the parish community, the child is encouraged to wear a white outfit.

Baptismal Candle: Originally, Baptisms occurred only once a year during the night time at the Easter Vigil. The Large Paschal Candle of Easter representing the "Light of Christ dispelling the darkness of the world" was lit. The newly baptized receive a candle lit from this Christ Candle as a sign that they have been "enlightened by Christ, and are to walk as a Child of the Light". You may bring a special candle with you, or use the one that is supplied by the parish.