



St. Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Church

Baptism Guidelines

Congratulations on the gift of new life to your family! We are pleased that you value your Catholic faith and want to have your child become part of the Church through Baptism.

You, as parents, will have a chance during the Rite of Baptism to publicly accept the responsibility and commitment to *“bring your child up in the practice of the faith.”* In light of this important choice, preparation for your child’s baptism requires serious and thoughtful consideration.

The preparation process includes:

-Meeting with the parish priest (for baptism application and interview);

-Attending a Baptismal Preparation Class (for a renewed appreciation of baptismal calling and your role as Christian parents.)

To prepare for your meeting with the priest, you should:

- Decide who will be your child’s Godparents (see text on *Godparents and Sponsors, What is Expected of Them Today?* and also our parish **Godparent Eligibility Certificate**—at least one of the godparents must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic);
- If you wish to have your child baptized outside the parish, we will provide a letter of permission as required by Church law.

Baptismal Preparation:

- Both parents are expected to attend a Baptism class that usually lasts about one hour;
- Godparents need to attend a class either in our parish or in their own parish;
- If you are not members of St. Thomas, you may attend at your local parish.

Baptizing a child is also one way that parents can deepen their own faith by recommitting themselves to **gathering on Sunday around the Table of the Lord**. The Eucharist is food for the soul that helps you in your responsibilities of passing on

the Christian faith to the next generation.

Finally, it is customary for parents to give an **offering to the Parish** on occasion of their child’s baptism. The suggested donation is \$150 to the parish and \$50 to the priest which may be given to the priest on the day of baptism. If for any reason you are not able to afford this, please know that there is never a charge for Sacraments—the gifts of the Lord can’t be bought!

Baptisms most often take place on a Saturday at our parish though for a special reason they can take place on a Sunday in the Easter season or the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord after Christmas. Please arrange the date with Fr. Dave.

Our parish looks forward to the day when you will bring your child to *the waters of new life*. May God bless you, your child and family, keeping all of you in His love.

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