



SANTA TERESITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

INFANT BAPTISM POLICY

Congratulations on the birth of your child! We are especially thankful that you are now desiring to become truly responsible Christian parents. Infant Baptism (birth up to 6 years of age) is a long standing and venerable tradition in the Roman Catholic Church.

Infant baptism requires that parents and godparents be committed to the practice of the faith, because these adults will speak for their child in claiming him/her for the Lord Jesus Christ. Since Baptism (the fundamental sacrament), like all sacraments, is a public expression of our incorporation into sacred mysteries, there must be some evidence of sincerity in proclaiming and practicing our Catholic faith.

Therefore, here at Santa Teresita, if you desire to have your young child baptized you need to follow the following guidelines/process:

Steps for Infant Baptism:

1. Register with our Parish and attend Mass for 3 months.
2. Fill out Baptismal Application & provide a birth certificate for each child to be Baptized.
3. The godparent letter of good standing form must be filled out by the registered parish of each godparent.
4. Parents and godparents must attend a pre-baptismal class (before the Baptismal date). Date will be given at time of application.
5. If parents and/or godparents take the class at another Parish, certification of completion must be submitted to our office.
6. If you do not reside in Santa Teresita boundaries: A letter is *required* from the Parish in your boundary granting permission for each child to be baptized at *our* Parish.

Qualified godparent/sponsor must be:

- Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age
- Sponsor cannot be the father or the mother of the person to be Baptized.
- Sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one of each sex. *Canon 873*
- Sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken; therefore, if married, must be married in the Church and if single, must be striving to live a chaste life and therefore cannot be living with a person outside of marriage.
- A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receives the Holy Eucharist.
- REQUIRED: To be a sponsor, please submit the sponsors Baptismal certificate with notations or a signed and sealed letter of good standing (*provided by our parish office*).

Parents, if you are unknown to our parish you must come to Sunday Mass every Sunday for 3 months, to show minimal commitment to raising your child in the faith. If you cannot do this (since you are speaking for your child), then you should not baptize your child now. If you comply with these guidelines above you may move to the next step and take the baptism classes and set a date for your child's baptism.

May the Lord Bless you and hold you in His love as we all journey together
in building the Body of Christ here and now.