

BAPTISM CLASSES

- † Baptism classes are on the Thursday's before the Baptism.
- † Parents and Godparents are required to take the class.
- † If class has been taken at another Parish please provide a copy of the certificate.
- † Baptism classes can be taken at another Parish if you are not able to attend the class here.
- † Classes are god for 2 years.

BAPTISM ETIQUETTE

- † Please be on time , since there are other families participating in the ceremony along with your own. Please try to be in the Church at least 15 minutes early. We will start on time!!!
- † Photographs may be taken during the ceremony.
- † Since the Church is a sacred place loud talking and other distracting forms of behavior are not allowed.
- † All cell phones should be turned off or placed on silence.
- † All parents may invite as many relative and friends to the Baptismal Ceremony as they wish.

BAPTISM CEREMONY

- † A baptismal candle will be presented to the parents during the ceremony unless one is brought by the family.
- † Children being Baptized should wear white for the ceremony.
- † Parents and Sponsors have an active part in the ceremony.
- † A Baptismal Certificate will be presented o the parents at the end of the Baptism.



SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM

Sign of the Cross— Given by the priest or deacon, the parents and godparents in order to claim the child for Christ. The cross symbolizes the love of Jesus for us by His death.

Water— A symbol not just of purity, or cleansing, but also of life and the Holy Spirit. For while water nourishes and sustains life, spiritually speaking, when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us it brings us new life in Christ, and makes us His son or daughter.

White Garment— White is a sign Christ and of purity, it is also symbolizes Christian dignity and our spotless condition when all sin has been removed

Paschal Candle— The candle is a symbol of Christ the Light. Therefore, one of the godparents is asked to light the candle from the Paschal Candle as a symbol of them carrying on the light of Christ on behalf of the one being Baptized.

Words— “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and f the Holy Spirit. Amen.” These are the key words in he ceremony when the water is poured over the baby's head and that which makes the Baptism valid.

Oil of Catechumens— The oil of catechumens is olive oil and is rubbed on the breast as a sign of protection from evil. It is also, to symbolize that the child has now become a catechumen, from that moment on they will be instructed in the faith by their parents and Sponsors.

The Holy Chrism— The Oil of Chrism, which is blessed at the Chrism Mass (during Holy Week before Easter). The word “Christ” means anointed one. Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King. At the baptism we too are anointed to live always as members of his body. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam and it is rubbed on the crown of the head to seal the child with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

BAPTISM FOR INFANTS AND SMALL CHILDREN



Immaculate Heart of Mary welcomes you and your child to our community. We're delighted to be here for you in this significant moment of the Christian faith.



617 S. Santa Rosa Ave
San Antonio, TX 78204
(210) 226-8268 office (210) 226-2412 fax
Email: admin@ihmsatx.org
Website: ihmsatx.org

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the first of the three sacraments of Christian Initiation, along with First Holy Communion and Confirmation. By seeking to have your child baptized, you will make a significant event in the life of your child and your family, for through baptism your child becomes a member of the Body of Christ and the Church. In the waters of Baptism, original sin is remitted and we become members of the Body of Christ, God's people. Baptizing your Child will also open the doors to the other Sacraments, which will allow for spiritual and support. This is why Canon Law states Once received, Baptism is a definitive gift from God that never needs to be repeated.

Baptism is a wonderful first step in Deepening our awareness of that Divine presence and nourishing it in our children. For Baptism is all about our relationship to God and to others.

When should a child be Baptized?

- † " Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks; as soon as possible after the birth or even before it, parents are to go to the Pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be properly prepared for it." (Can 867)
- † Children who are under the age of 7 years may be Baptized in the Church. Children over the age of 7 years of age must register for Religious Education.



Who may request a Baptism?

- † It is the responsibility of the parent (guardian) to request a Baptism for their infant/child.
- † We do not deny Baptism to a child if the parents are unmarried or not married in the Catholic Church. However, Parents must be practicing Catholics.
- † Consent by at least one biological parent or legal guardian is the minimum requirement for baptism to occur. (cic 868)

Scheduling of your Child's Baptisms

- † Spanish Baptisms are held every 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM.
- † English Baptisms are held every 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM.
- † Registration deadline is one week before Baptism.
- † You must pre register in person at the Parish Office.
- † All documentation must be turned in at time of registration.
- † registration will not be accepted if documentation is incomplete.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- † Complete Baptism Registration Form.
- † Original State issued Birth Certificate for the child.
- † God Parents certificates. (see sponsor info) (1st Communion, Confirmation, Marriage)
- † State Issued Marriage License are not accepted.
- † Certificate of class attendance.

All documents are required at time of registration along with the fee of \$ 35.00.



SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

Choosing a sponsor (Godparent) can be both exciting and difficult, we invite you to reflect on the role and selection of a sponsor. Being a Sponsor is not simply a honorary title— it's a role of responsibility and commitment. So think ahead!!!

What is the role of the sponsors ?

The sponsor's role is to be a model guide and witness for your child as he or she grows in faith. Sponsors must be firm believers able and ready to help and assist in the newly baptized child's spiritual development. Their task is a truly ecclesial (church) function. (CC 1255)

How many Sponsors can there be?

A child may only have one or two sponsors; if you choose to have two, they must be one male and one female. There cannot be more than two per child.

Who can be a sponsor?

- † First and most importantly, all candidates must be practicing Catholics that are in good standing with their local Parish.
- † Must be at least 16 years of age.
- † If sponsor is single (E.g., not living with a companion, married by justice of peace or by another religion)
- † If married, they must be in a valid Catholic Marriage (married by Law, Justice of the peace, common Law or by another religion are not eligible to be sponsors.)
- † Sponsors cannot be the parents or step parents.
- † Sponsors must be faithful

Documents needed from sponsors.

- † Married Sponsors: 1st Communion, Confirmation, and church issued Marriage certificates for the couple or individual that will serve as a sponsor.
- † Single Sponsors: 1st Communion, and Confirmation certificates for each sponsors.