

# Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism



St. Thomas the Apostle  
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# Congratulations

Dear Parent(s),

Congratulations on your child's upcoming baptism! Baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is a time of birth, the moment of new life, a beginning of a destiny that can only be fulfilled in eternity. The day of your child's Baptism is a day of hope, a day of promise, and a day of joy. It is a day of joy, not only for you and your family, but for the entire Christian community. Through Baptism your child begins to share the life of Christ with all other Christians.

We at St. Thomas the Apostle are here to assist you to prepare for this first Sacrament. In this brochure, you will find the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the sacrament of baptism here at St. Thomas. If at any time you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call us for assistance. We look forward to assisting and supporting you as you fulfill your sacred duty to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in your child's life.

With prayers and best wishes,

*Father Steven Hurley*  
Pastor



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **Why is there a baptismal preparation class, can't we just show up and have our child baptized?**

Baptism is a major event and thus careful preparation is needed. Baptism places serious responsibilities and demands upon parents and godparents. You have a right to know about these responsibilities and the baptismal preparation program will provide you with the answers.

### **When and Where is the baptismal program?**

The baptismal preparation program is usually held on the first Tuesday of every other month from 7pm to 8pm in the parish rectory. You must call the parish office and register for the class.

### **What can we expect to learn from the baptismal preparation program?**

Parents and godparents will be given practical guidance in introducing their small children into our Catholic Faith as well as discussing the lifelong commitments of Christian parenting. You will also learn about the elements of baptism, as well as the ritual, signs, and symbols of the sacrament.

### **Do both parents have to attend the program?**

No, only one parent MUST attend, but it is highly encouraged that both do.

### **Do the godparents have to attend the program?**

No, but they are invited and encouraged to participate throughout the entire process.

### **Can other family members or friends attend?**

Yes. The entire family and significant friends of your family are welcomed to attend and participate.

### **What are the requirements to be a godparent?**

See the next page below.

### **What do we need to do after we participate in the preparation class?**

Simply call the parish office to schedule your child's baptism.

### **When is the sacrament of baptism celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle?**

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of every month, following the 10:00 AM Mass.

### **How much does a baptism cost these days?**

The Church does not charge for sacraments so there is no fee. Expenses for baptismal candles, garments, etc., are covered by the parish, so your weekly support of the collection is crucial and greatly appreciated.

# GODPARENTS

According to Church Law:

It is only necessary that one godparent be chosen for your child. If however, you choose to have two godparents, one must be male and one must be female.

## A godparent must:

- Be a baptized Catholic
- Be a least 16 years of age
- Have already received First Eucharist
- Have received the Sacrament of Confirmation



A baptized non-Catholic may stand as a witness with a Catholic godparent.

A parent cannot be the godparent for his or her child. The Godparent should be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Godparents are asked to provide a sponsor certificate from their parish indicating their eligibility to act as a godparent. The godparent can have their parish send the certificate directly to St. Thomas the Apostle.

Parents should make certain that the person being considered to be a godparent meets the above conditions before asking them. The role of the godparent presumes a significant influence in the future life of the child. It is fitting that this person may eventually be chosen for Confirmation sponsor.

## CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- Call parish office to register for baptismal preparation class.
- Prayerfully select godparent(s)
- Have godparent(s) provide St. Thomas with a "Sponsor Certificate" from their home parish.
- Attended baptismal preparation class on: \_\_\_\_\_
- Call parish office to schedule baptism.
- Baptism scheduled for : \_\_\_\_\_