

**St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
Baptism Guidelines  
Infant and Children under age 7**

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your family with great joy to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church for the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of your child.

If you are not a registered member of St. Catherine's, we encourage you to do so. Church Registration forms are available in the church office, online and in the Narthex of the Church.

In asking to have your child baptized, you are also accepting the responsibility of training your child in their lifelong practice of the Catholic faith. Those you select as godparents are to be prepared to help you in your duty as Christian parents.

To register for a Baptism Preparation Program, please call Jeanette at 892-2420 ext. 321.

The program consists of 2 2-hour classes. Baptism classes are held on Saturday mornings from 10 – Noon. In 2-parent families, both parents are expected to attend all classes. Both parents and godparents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Program. If you can provide proof of attendance at a Baptismal Preparation Program at this or another Catholic parish within the last three years, you need only attend the second class.

Godparent classes are held the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. If Godparents reside outside the Austin area, they may elect to attend instruction at their local Parish. If this is done, the Pastor of the Parish where instruction is received must provide a letter to St. Catherine's. This letter should include the name of the child to be baptized and the date of the baptism.

**Parent Class Schedule (10 – Noon)**

2018: Nov 3 & 10

2019:

Jan 12 & 19

Feb 9 & 16

Mar 30 & Apr 6

May 4 & 11

Jun 8 & 15

Jul 13 & 20

Aug 10 & 17

Sep 28 & Oct 5

Nov 2 & 9

**Godparent Class (6:30pm – 8pm)**

2018: Nov 7

Dec 5

2019: Jan 2

Feb 6

Mar 13

Apr 3

May 1

Jun 5

Jul 3

Aug 7

Sep 4

Oct 2

Nov 6

Dec 4

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To schedule a Baptism date, please call Jeanette at 892-2420 ext. 321.

**The Rite of Infant Baptism is scheduled at 10:30AM on the dates shown below. Parents and Godparents should be in the Narthex of the church NO LATER THAN 10:15AM**

<u>2018:</u>	Feb 23	Aug 17
Nov 17	Mar 2	Aug 24
Dec 15	May 4	Sep 21
Dec 22	May 18	Sep 28
	May 25	Oct 19
<u>2019:</u>	Jun 15	Oct 26
Jan 19 (@1:30pm)	Jun 22	Nov 16
Jan 26	Jul 20	Nov 23
Feb 16	Jul 27	Dec 7

The following forms must be completed and submitted before a Baptism Date can be chosen: (if the child is not yet born, please contact Jeanette to discuss)

- Completed Baptism registration form. Parents must have completed or be participating in a Baptismal Preparation Program
- Parents must provide the church with a copy of the state-issued birth certificate of the child to be baptized
- Godparents must complete and sign the Godparent Covenant forms.

**For parents**

Parent(s) must be registered parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena or live within the parish boundaries. If parents do not live within the boundaries AND do not intend to register as parishioners, a letter from the pastor of their proper parish is required, granting permission to have the child baptized at St. Catherine's.

**Qualifications for godparents**

The child to be baptized is required to have one godparent, but may have the customary two (one male – godfather, one female – godmother). A godparent must be a fully initiated practicing Catholic, meaning the godparent must have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup> Communion) and Confirmation. If godparents are married (to each or to other spouses), they must be married in the Catholic Church.

- Godparents must be at least 16 years of age
- Godparents must provide written proof of completion in a godparent preparation program within the last 2 years, or be participating in a godparent preparation program. If godparent is not able to find a godparent program, a written letter from their church stating they are fully initiated and practicing Catholics is required.
- Godparents must complete and sign the "Covenant Form".