



Parent Information Packet Guidelines Baptism at St. Jerome Catholic Church Waco Texas



Congratulations on your newborn child. In the baptismal preparation class you will learn the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism. More importantly, your faith will be refreshed, renewed, deepened and strengthened. Through the Sacrament of Baptism your child will receive God's life, removal of original sin, and membership in the Catholic Christian Community. What a joyous occasion in your life and in the life of the Church. Listed below are some practical points to make the day organized and happy.

1. [Before your child can be baptized, you are invited to attend the following: a Clergy Interview and a Baptism Preparation Class respectively. The Clergy Interview can be scheduled through the parish office. Once the Clergy Interview is completed, contact the parish office for date, time and location of the Baptism Preparation Class.](#)
2. **It is required that both parents and godparents attend the Baptismal Preparation class.** However, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.
3. After you and the godparents have attended a class, you may come to the office during regular business hours to schedule a baptism. This can be done by a parent or someone you designate to do so. You may drop off or mail in paperwork. These are the forms that are required in the office:
 - **Proof of Attendance at Baptismal Preparation Class**
 - **A Copy of State Birth Certificate for the child**
 - **A Godparent Covenant Form from each Catholic godparent**
 - **Permission to Baptize (if you are baptizing out of your home parish)**

Remember, godparents must be practicing Catholics and at least 16 years old. They must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church with Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church. If they are single, then they should be living in accordance to the tenants of the Catholic faith.

4. **Baptisms cannot be scheduled after the Clergy Interview and Baptismal Class have been completed. Please do not make arrangements with out of town guests to attend your child's baptism until you have scheduled a date.** If the scheduled Baptism must be canceled, please call 254-666-7722 (office), and advise us of that fact.
5. **It is customary for the child to wear white, but not mandatory.**
6. **Baptisms are held on the 4th Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM or on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning at the 11:00 AM Mass in the Church. Exceptions can be made with the clergy and the parish office.**

**THE ROLE AND REQUIREMENT OF GODPARENTS OR SPONSORS
ACCORDING TO CANON LAW**

Can. 872 – Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a **sponsor** who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and **who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it.**

Can 873 – Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed.

Can. 874 -- § 1. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;
- **Have completed the sixteenth year**, unless, a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
- **Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;**
(Thus, people who do not participate regularly in the Eucharist, or who are living in marriages not recognized by the Catholic Church may not be qualified to function as sponsors.)
- Not be bound by a canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

§ 2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic Ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a Witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.

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Proxy Godparents are allowed and a practicing Catholic is preferred.
However, a non-Catholic may also be a Proxy Godparent.

St. Jerome Catholic Church

The Sacrament of Baptism

Frequently Asked Questions

What age should I have my child baptized?

Jesus said “Let the children come to me” so you are invited to share with your child the gift of grace and new life in Christ that comes with baptism as early as you wish. (Matthew 19:14). We encourage you to begin the preparation process before your child is born so you are ready for the child’s baptism when the time comes.

Children 7 years and older: There is a special baptism preparation class for children once they reach the age of 7. Parents participate in the process described here and call the Parish Office, (254) 666-7722 to learn more about classes for their child.

Teenagers: Teens prepare for baptism through the youth ministry program. Parents can discuss this with the Youth Minister.

Why meet with a priest or deacon?

Meeting with a priest or deacon before the class allows you more time to explore your questions about baptism and your role as parents. You will also receive pastoral exhortation from the pastor or the Deacon. During this visit you will get support in choosing godparents who will be a good model for your child in living the Catholic faith. You will also walk through the baptism preparation process and necessary paperwork so you know what to expect. Both parents should come for the visit with the priest or deacon.

What will we do at the class?

The baptism class is a chance to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism so you are prepared to celebrate it fully and help your child live out this gift daily. It includes time to talk with and learn from other parents and opportunities to reflect on your role as the first teacher of faith for your child. Both parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism class prior to the baptism of your child.

What if my child’s godparents do not live nearby?

If Godparents are not able to participate in a class at St. Jerome, they can attend a baptism class in a Catholic church close to them. Have them inquire at their home parish about baptism classes in their area.

I recently attended a baptism class for one of my children. Do I need to attend the class again before my next child’s baptism?

For each child’s baptism, parents will schedule a visit with a priest or deacon. If it has been more than 3 years since you attended a baptism class, then it’s time for a refresher. The same holds true for Godparents.

Is there any charge for baptism class?

No, there is no charge to prepare for or celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. People may give a freewill donation to the Church or celebrant if they wish but none is required.

OBTAINING BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Once your baby is born, the medical facility will send the birth information to your local registrar where you can purchase a certificate in person approximately six (6) weeks after the birth. It takes about five (5) months for the data to be entered into the state system. You can then purchase a copy either in person, by mail or by phone. A phone request will be processed by credit card only and there is an additional fee

Certificates may be purchased at this location:

For children born in Mc County, Texas

McLennan Public Health District
225 W. Waco Drive, Waco, TX 76707
254-750-5462

Mailing Address: 225 W. Waco Drive
Waco, Texas 76707

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday thru Friday

Email for Birth: onlinevitalus.com/Waco

For Mailing: Provide the date and place of Birth; Father's full name; Mother's Maiden name; and stating the requester's relationship to the individual whose birth record is desired. A copy of the requester's proof of identification (driver's license, military ID, State ID, or other government ID) must also be submitted with the request. If the requesting individual is out-of-state, money for the certificate(s) should be sent in the form of a money order or cashier check. Out-of-state checks are not accepted.

Notation on envelope: Attn: Birth Records

You may schedule your child's baptism when all pertinent preparations have been accomplished



St. Jerome Catholic Church
 9820 Chapel Road - Waco, TX - 76712 - (254)666-7722
Baptism Registration Form



Name of Child: _____
 City/State of Birth: _____
 Date of Birth: _____

Parental Information

Parents: Married Not Married

FATHER

MOTHER

Last Name: _____
 First Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____

Maiden Name: _____
 First Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____

Godparents Information

Name of Catholic Godfather: _____

Sacraments received: Baptism First Communion Confirmation
 Married in Catholic Church Single

Name of Catholic Godmother: _____

Sacraments received: Baptism First Communion Confirmation
 Married in Catholic Church Single

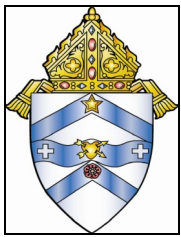
Christian Witness, Catholic Witness or Proxy Information:
 Name: _____ Witness Proxy

Baptisms: 4th Saturday of the month - 11:00 AM OR 4th Sunday of the month - 11:00 AM

Date: _____ Time: _____

For Priest/Deacon Use Only

Name of Priest/Deacon: _____ Date of Baptism: _____



Diocese of Austin, Texas

BAPTISM SPONSOR COVENANT



As a Baptism Sponsor, your role is to encourage the faith of your candidate and be an “example” to your Godchild and to reflect with your Godchild as they grow on the meaning of a life of Catholic discipleship.

The code of Canon law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as godparents at Baptism (Canon 874): You may not be the parent of the person being baptized; you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage; and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.

I understand the requirements of being a Baptism godparent and I state that I received the **Sacrament of Baptism:**

at _____ Church
in _____ City/State

I received the **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

at _____ Catholic Church
in _____ (City/State)

(And if married) celebrated the **Sacrament of Marriage:**

at _____
in _____ (City/State)

My Godchild’s name is: _____

Name of parish and city where the **Sacrament of Baptism** is to take place:

Parish: _____ City/State: _____

I am active in the Catholic Church, fully initiated into the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

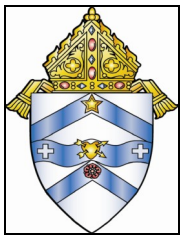
Name: _____
(Please print) (Signature)

Date: _____

****For out-of-town parish Godparents:** In preparation for my call as a Sponsor, I attest to have taken pre-Baptism Classes at:

Name of Parish: _____ City/State: _____

Date of Class: _____



Diocese of Austin, Texas BAPTISM SPONSOR COVENANT



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at _____ Church

in _____ City/State

I received the **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

at _____ Catholic Church

in _____ (City/State)

(And if married) celebrated the **Sacrament of Marriage:**

at _____

in _____ (City/State)

My Godchild's name is: _____

Name of parish and city where the **Sacrament of Baptism** is to take place:

Parish: _____ City/State: _____

I am active in the Catholic Church, fully initiated into the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

Name: _____
(Please print) (Signature)

Date: _____

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