



St. Clare
OF Assisi
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pre-Baptism Inquiry

Dear Fathers and Mothers,

Thank you for taking the time to prepare for the Baptism of your child. Life is a blessing and a gift from God, and we rejoice with you in the life of your child! The Sacrament of Baptism is the gateway to the spiritual life: it frees us from sin, gives us new birth as children of God, and unites us with Jesus and his Catholic Church.

The following are answers to frequently asked questions about baptismal procedures at our parish:

How long do I have to wait to have my child baptized? It is best to have the child baptized sooner rather than later. The Church recommends baptism of infants in the first few weeks following birth. Infant Baptism includes children from birth until their 6th Birthday. If your child is 7 years of age or older, please contact the Director of Religious Education for more information regarding your child's reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Do I need to be a registered member of the parish to have my child baptized? At least ONE parent must be a registered parishioner at St. Clare, since the parish provides vital resources and a supportive environment that will help you to nurture your family's spiritual life. The registration process is simple; please contact the parish office for more information. If you are registered in the parish, but happen to live outside our parish boundaries, you must show active participation in the community for at least 6 months. If you are not a member of our parish, we will need a permission letter from your parish to celebrate the baptism at St. Clare Church.

Is there a baptismal preparation class? Yes. **BOTH Parents and BOTH godparents** are required to attend a pre-baptismal class that explains the Sacrament of Baptism and their important responsibilities as parents and godparents in the child's spiritual life. Please contact the parish office to register for the in-person class; online classes are NOT allowed. Pre-Baptism classes are available in both English and Spanish. If you are unable to attend our in-person class, we will accept a class attendance certificate or letter from another Catholic parish.

When is the pre-baptism class? Baptism classes are held in **English on the FIRST Wednesday** of the month and in **Spanish on the THIRD Wednesday** of the month **7pm-9pm**. Please contact the Parish Office to register for any of these dates.

What if I have already attended a pre-baptismal preparation class before? If you have attended a Catholic pre-baptismal preparation class within the last two years, you do not need to attend the class again. Please provide us with a certificate/letter of attendance.



What do I need to consider when choosing a godparent?

Please pray for your selection of a godparent. It is a great blessing to surround your children with credible witnesses to the Catholic Faith who will help you in your responsibility as Catholic parent(s). You must choose at least one godparent who is a practicing Catholic and who meets **ALL** the following qualifications:

- Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Cannot be the parent of the person being baptized.
- Must not be under any penalty of Church law, such as excommunication.
- Attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligations. Regularly receives Holy Communion & Reconciliation (Confession).
- If married, must be married in the Catholic Church, and living according to Church teaching.
- Catholics married in a non-Catholic ceremony without special permission of the bishop, and those cohabitating (living together) do not meet the requirements of this role.

It is customary for children to have two godparents (one male and one female). As noted, only ONE Catholic godparent is required. You may choose a “Christian witness” in place of a second godparent to support your child to live as a disciple of Jesus. This “Christian witness” must be a baptized Christian (at least 16 years of age) who is an active, participating member in the Christian community which he/she attends.

How do I set a date for the baptism? Baptisms can be scheduled through the parish office for celebration in a group with other children. The date cannot be confirmed until all documents have been received, and preparation requirements have been completed.

When are baptisms held? Baptisms are held in English on the 2nd Saturdays of the month at 11:00am and in Spanish on the 4th Saturday of the month at 11:00am.

What documents do I need to provide to the office? What is the normal donation?

- Copy of the birth certificate of the child (from the hospital or State)
- Testimonial letter(s) from godparent(s) and the Data for Baptismal Register Form. You can download the forms through our website: www.st-clare.org

All required documents listed above can be submitted in paper form to the office or sent as an email attachment to parishoffice@st-clare.org Please include the name of the child on the subject line.

We suggest a donation of any amount, which can be given by cash, check, or credit card to the parish office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at:

Email | parishoffice@st-clare.org

Phone | +1(661)252-3353

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm, 1:30pm-5:00pm

Address | 19606 Calla Way, Santa Clarita, CA, 91351



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BAPTISMAL SPONSOR (GODPARENT) TESTIMONIAL LETTER

Congratulations on being asked to be a godparent/sponsor! By accepting this role, you are committing yourself to a significant role in this child's life. You are being asked to share your faith with this child and to help him/her to lead a Christian life by your words and by the example of your life.

Please complete this form by completing each section legibly.

Once complete, please return the form to the parents of the child to be baptized.

Name of child to be baptized: _____
First Name Middle Last Name

Godparent/Sponsor: _____
First Name Middle Last Name

Cellphone: _____ Email: _____

I am a parishioner of St. Clare of Assisi Church. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are NOT a parishioner of St. Clare of Assisi Church, please write below what Parish you belong to:

Name of Parish Registered City State

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A BAPTISMAL SPONSOR (GODPARENT)

Catholic Church law (Code of Canon 874) lists the qualifications for baptismal sponsors. Please provide the following information. For questions concerning qualifications, please contact the St. Clare Parish Office at (661)252-3353.

If you do NOT meet all requirements below, please inform the parents of the child to be baptized immediately.

1. A Sponsor must fully be initiated into the Catholic Church. Have you received these three Catholic sacraments of initiation?
Baptism: ☐ Yes ☐ No *Holy Eucharist:* ☐ Yes ☐ No *Confirmation in the Catholic Church:* ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. A Sponsor must be at least 16 years old. Are you 16 or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. A Sponsor cannot be the parent of the person to be baptized.
Are you the parent of this person? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. A Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
 - If married, he/she must be married in the Catholic Church and live according to Church teaching.
 - If single, he/she must be living according to Catholic Church teaching.
 - Catholics married in a non-Catholic ceremony without special permission of the bishop, and those cohabitating (living together) do NOT meet the requirements of this role.
 - A Sponsor must NOT be under any penalty of Church law, such as excommunication.

Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. A Sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic. Do you attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and regularly receive Holy Communion and Reconciliation (Confession)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I have truthfully answered the above questions and declare that I fulfill the Catholic Church's qualifications for a Baptismal Sponsor (Godparent). I commit to the responsibility of acting as a Sponsor.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Data for Baptismal Register

Name of Child: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City of Birth: _____

Father's Name: _____

Catholic _____ Non-Catholic _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Catholic _____ Non-Catholic _____

Home Address: _____

City and Zip code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Were parents married in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Are you registered in this parish? Yes/ envelope # _____ No

Godfather's Name: _____

Catholic _____ Non-Catholic _____

Godmother's Name: _____

Catholic _____ Non-Catholic _____

Proxy, if any: _____

Was the child privately baptized (i.e. in an emergency)? _____

For office use only

Birth certificate/hospital verification letter: ☐ Requested Baptism Date: _____

Godfather's Testimonial letter: ☐ Date & Church of Pre-Baptism Class: _____

Godmother's Testimonial letter: ☐ Date & Church of Pre-Baptism Class: _____

Father's Date & Church of Pre-Baptism Class: _____

Mother's Date & Church of Pre-Baptism Class: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Priest/Deacon Signature: _____