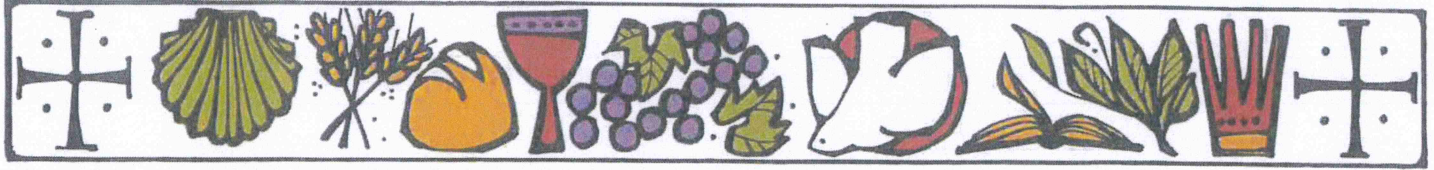


ST. THERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH



OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ALICE BLAIR, DIRECTOR

Dear Parents:

Congratulations on the birth or approaching birth of your child! We at St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Church share your joy and we anxiously await participating in the sacrament of Baptism with you. The sacrament of Baptism begins your child's initiation into the Church. It is the first of the three sacraments of initiation (*Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation*).

Faith, as modeled by parents and sponsors, provides the basis for a child's relationship with God. Our Baptism preparation begins when you and your child's godparents complete the appropriate paperwork and return them to the church office. Instead of coming to St. Theresa to participate in a baptism seminar we ask you to watch a video program by Ascension Press on baptism. This video needs to be watched by parents, godparents and/or Christian witness. This program will help you understand the full meaning of Baptism.

Complete the **Family Information form** and return it to us either by regular mail; email to ablair@stachurch.net or fax to (225 647-2223). Read over the "**Role of the Godfather and Godmother**" before forwarding the paperwork to your prospective godparents/sponsors (1 male and 1 female). *Catholic godparents need to bring their completed form to their church parish in order that their Pastor can verify that they are parishioners in good standing.* Their parish will mail or fax the form to St. Theresa Church. Please note - **parents and godparents must be registered parishioners of the Catholic church they attend.** If your family is not registered here at St. Theresa contact Marita DeCuir for assistance (225) 647-6588.

Once we receive the completed information form from the parents and that of your godparent/christian witness we will be contacted to schedule the baptism. If a parent or godparent has attended a seminar within the last three years, you do not have to attend ours. Please note the information on the bottom section of the parents form.

Contact me with any questions you may have: (225) 647-6588 or ablair@stahurch.net

May God Bless you and your family,

Alice Blair



St. Theresa of Avila Church
 1022 North Burnside Avenue
 Gonzales, Louisiana 70737
 (225) 647-6588
 ablair@Stachurch.net

Family Information for the Sacrament of Baptism

Today's Date: _____

Family Registered at St. Theresa? Yes [] or No [] I.D. # on Parish Envelopes? _____

Print all information for clarity purposes

Name of child as listed on birth certificate:

First Name *Complete Middle Name* *Last Name* *Suffix*

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: *Male* () *Female* ()

City of Birth: _____ State: _____

Child's Ethnicity: () Caucasian () African American () Hispanic () Other _____

Father's Information:

Legal First Name *Complete Middle Name* *Last Name* *Suffix*

Cell #: _____ Religion: _____

Father's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Monthly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

If you do not attend mass EVERY Sunday please explain:

Mother's Information:

Legal First Name *Complete Middle Name* **Maiden Name**

Cell #: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Church Attendance:

Weekly [] Monthly [] Occasionally [] Seldom [] Never []

If you do not attend mass EVERY Sunday please explain:

Place of Marriage:

Physical Location (church/other): _____

City/State: _____ Date: _____

Marriage performed by:

Priest [] Deacon [] Minister [] Judge [] Justice of the Peace []
Not Married [] Marriage Validated in the Catholic Church [] Sanation []

If you are not married, are you interested in being married in the Catholic Church? Yes [] or No []

If you were civilly married are you interested in having your marriage blessed? Yes [] or No []

Parent's Mailing Address:

Street or P.O. Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Godparent Information: (please provide complete legal names for record keeping purposes)

Sponsor/Godfather Complete Name:

Complete Legal name: First name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

Sponsor/Godmother Complete Name:

Complete Legal name: First Name Middle Name if married, Maiden Name Married Last Name

In-person baptism seminars are no longer held at St Theresa. Parents & godparents will watch an on-line video presentation (cost \$11.95) and forward the certificate to ablair@stachurch.net. Names of those who watched the video can be added when registering. Once everything has been submitted, the baptism will be scheduled. ascensionpress.com/collections/belonging-baptism-in-the-family-of-god

Baptism seminar previously attended by:

Father: () yes () no When and where: _____
Mother: () yes () no When and where: _____
Godfather: () yes () no When and where: _____
Godmother: () yes () no When and where: _____

The Role of the Godfather and Godmother



Whoever is chosen as Godfather or Godmother for a Baptism or a Confirmation, is called on to undertake a truly valuable and important task. Very often, in the modern world, we lose sight of the true value of this role, but it shouldn't be this way. When the parents of a newborn child choose a Godparent for his or her Baptism, they should bear in mind that, beyond the relationship of friendship that binds them to this person, *it is essential that it is someone who has the necessary requisites to support their child over their entire lifetime.* Because this is what a Godfather or a Godmother should do: walk alongside the young faithful, as Jesus himself would do, offering him or her spiritual support and a model of Christian life that could inspire him and help him at all times.

Who is the Godfather and who is the Godmother?

The Godfather and the Godmother for a Baptism are figures who accompany their godson or goddaughter to the altar and take responsibility for accompanying them in their growth as humans and as Christians. If the baptism is of a child, the Godfather or Godmother also have the task of pronouncing the baptismal promises wherever it takes place.

On the occasion of the Confirmation, usually a Godfather or Godmother accompanies the Confirmed, and supports the young faithful in their 'confirmation' as a member of the Church.

What are the requirements of the Godfather and of the Godmother?

The requirements to play the role of Godmother or Godfather are indicated in a very precise way by canon 874, as regards Baptism, and by canon 93 of the Code of Canon Law, for Confirmation. Mainly, they are as follows:

The Godfather or the Godmother for the Baptism/Confirmation must have completed by the age of sixteen. They must be **Catholic**; been confirmed; attends mass weekly and receives the Eucharist; and, leads a life in conformity with the Catholic faith. A parent cannot be a godparent to their child.

People who are civilly married; divorced and remarried without receiving an annulment; or living with another partner without being married in the Catholic church cannot be a godparent. In such cases it is best to contact Alice Blair at the parish office to discuss their situation. (225) 647-6588.

At a baptism, there can be either a single Godfather or a single Godmother; a Godfather and a Godmother; or one Godparent and a Christian Witness. A Christian Witness cannot be someone who was baptized Catholic and now practices another religion. The role of a godparent is to guide the child in the Catholic faith if their parents fail to do so.



St. Theresa of Avila Church
 1022 N. Burnside Avenue
 Gonzales, LA 70737
 (225) 647-6588 (225) 647-2223 (fax)
 ablair@Stachurch.net

Godparent Form for the Sacrament of Baptism

Sponsor's name: _____
 (please print) (First name) (Middle name) (if female, MAIDEN NAME) (Last name)

Name of person to be baptized: _____

Sponsor's cell phone #: _____ Sponsor's email address: _____

Name of Sponsor's Church: _____ City/State of Church: _____

In accepting this responsibility, I affirm that: (please check all that apply)

_____ I am not the mother or father of the one to be baptized. _____ I am at least 16 years of age

_____ I believe all that the Catholic Church professes and teaches and I truly make an effort to incorporate these teachings into my daily life. I will be a good role model for the person I am sponsoring by my life of prayer and Catholic way of life.

_____ **I was baptized Catholic.** Date: _____
 Name of Church: _____ City/State: _____

_____ **I received the Sacrament of Confirmation.** Date: _____
 Name of Church: _____ City/State: _____

_____ **I was married by Catholic priest or deacon** Date: _____
 Name of Church: _____ City/State: _____

_____ **I am Catholic, SINGLE and HAVE NEVER BEEN MARRIED.** I am living a Christian life in accordance to the laws of the Catholic Church which means *I am not living with someone outside of marriage.*

_____ **I am in a civil marriage** and my marriage is **HAS NOT** blessed in the Catholic church.

_____ **I am REMARRIED:** _____ My previous marriage was annulled and I am in a valid Catholic marriage.
 _____ My current marriage is a civil marriage.

_____ I am a registered member of the **Catholic church parish** listed above and I meet all the requirements to be a Godparent. **All Catholics must have the Pastor of their church parish sign this form below.**

_____ I am not Catholic *and* I was baptized in another faith tradition. (My roll will be that of a Christian Witness)

Were you ever baptized in the Catholic Church? Yes [] No []

_____ I was baptized at _____ Church. _____ I am not baptized.

_____ I practice my religion on a regular basis & promise to be a role model to support the parents of this child.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pastor's Acknowledgment

As pastor, I verify that the person named above is an active Catholic in my parish and has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. If married, their marriage is valid in the Catholic Church.

Pastor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or fax to: Alice Blair, St Theresa of Avila, 1022 N. Burnside Ave, Gonzales, LA 70737 -- fax: (225) 647-2223



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Name of Sponsor's Church: _____ City/State of Church: _____

In accepting this responsibility, I affirm that: (please check all that apply)

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_____ I believe all that the Catholic Church professes and teaches and I truly make an effort to incorporate these teachings into my daily life. I will be a good role model for the person I am sponsoring by my life of prayer and Catholic way of life.

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 Name of Church: _____ City/State: _____

_____ I was married by Catholic priest or deacon Date: _____
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Pastor's signature: _____ Date: _____