



The First Sacrament

Just as Jesus began his ministry through baptism, our own baptism is the first step in a life-long commitment to Discipleship. We are baptized as children into God's community and baptized as adults when we consciously accept the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit into our hearts to become heirs of heaven. We put on our white garment of 'immortality' to join with Christ. With the sign of the Cross, we declare our intent to leave sin and separation behind, which seals and consecrates our commitment.

As we are baptized in the water and the Spirit, and/or with the laying on of hands, we are 'anointed' and joined with Christ in the fullness of the Eucharistic celebration and are fully welcomed into the Body of Christ and the Church community with the prayer of 'Our Father...'

1218 Since the beginning of the world, water, so humble and wonderful a creature, has been the source of life and fruitfulness. Sacred Scripture sees it as "overshadowed" by the Spirit of God. (12) At the very dawn of creation Your spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. (13)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church



BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS

Parents:

- Baptism Instruction Class
- Registered members for at least 6 months and in good standing with St. Stephen or home parish
- Children should only be brought to church for baptism when parents have every intention of raising them in a practicing Catholic household.
- All required documents due upon registration:
 - Copy of Child's birth certificate
 - Letter of good standing from the god parents
(Only if they are registered at a different church)

God Parents:

- Baptism Instruction Class recommended but not required.
- Registered members for at least 6 months and in good standing with St. Stephen or home parish
- Must be at least 16 years of age; confirmed Catholic who has already received Holy Communion; not to be bound by any canonical penalty; cannot be the father or mother of one to be baptized.
- A baptized person who belong to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness of the baptism; only one male or one female or one of each sex is to be employed

Parents/god parents may take St. Stephen Instruction class. A letter of completion will be provided.

If parents/god parents are taking class in another parish to baptize at St. Stephen, must provide proof of instruction and letter from home parish that they are members in good standing and have permission to baptize at St. Stephen

Who can be a godparent?

1. Only one male or one female godparent or one of each sex is to be a godparent. There cannot be two godparents of the same sex.
2. Must be at least 16 years of age.
3. Must be a practicing Catholic who is in good standing with the Church. The person must be attending Sunday Mass regularly, and if married, has a valid marriage with the Catholic Church. (See flow chart)
4. They must be 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 as a godparent.
5. This person cannot be the mother or the father of the one to be baptized.
6. A baptized person of another Christian church may not serve as godparent or sponsor but may serve as a witness to the baptism together with a Catholic sponsor.
7. The role of the godparent is to assist the parents to present an infant at baptism, help the baptized to lead a Christian/Catholic life and pray for the baptized to remain faithful to his/her baptismal vows.



Requisitos para Bautismos

Padres:

- *Ser miembros registrados de la iglesia por lo menos 6 meses antes del bautismo.*
- *Clase de Instrucción para Bautismo (Presentar certificado de asistencia de donde tomo su clase)*
- *Recuerde que los niños deberán ser presentados para el bautismo, cuando los papás tienen el firme propósito de criar a sus hijos en la fe católica y continuar asistiendo a misa.*
- *Estos documentos son los que tiene que presentar en el momento en que solicita el sacramento del bautismo en la oficina:*
 - *Copia del certificado de nacimiento*
 - *Carta de buena posición moral de la parroquia que asisten los padrinos (Solo si van a otra parroquia)*

Padrinos:

- *Clase de Instrucción para Bautismo (Presentar certificado de asistencia de donde tomo su clase)*
- *Ser miembros registrados nuestra iglesia (si pertenecen a nuestra parroquia)*
- *Ser mayores de 16 años y que hayan recibido todos los sacramentos*
- *No pueden ser los mismos padres del niño a bautizar*
- *Si no pertenecen a nuestra parroquia, favor de presentar carta de buena posición moral de la iglesia a que pertenecen*
- *Si los Padrinos son un matrimonio, deberán estar casados por la iglesia (Presentar acta de matrimonio)*

Los padres o padrinos deberán tomar la clase de instrucción para el bautismo en San Esteban, se les entregara un certificado de asistencia.

Si los padres o los padrinos pertenecen a otra parroquia, favor de presentar una carta de buena posición moral y que su párroco les da permiso de bautizar en San Esteban.