



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)
https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P3I.HTM

- From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Baptism Instruction: English classes are held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9:15 AM in Room 10 in the Holy Spirit Center). Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate. Please see the Baptism Requirements page for more information.





Who can be a Godparent?

1. If there is only one Godparent, they may be male or female. Or if there are two Godparents, 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 attend Sunday Mass regularly, and if married, has a valid marriage with the Catholic Church, present a copy of their marriage certificate.
4. They must be confirmed and have already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and lead 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 a 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 in presenting an infant at baptism, help the baptized lead a Christian/Catholic life, and pray for the baptized to remain faithful to his/her baptismal vows.

Baptism Requirements

Godparents:

- Baptism Instruction Class.
- 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; can't be the father or mother of one to be baptized.
- A baptized person from 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:

- Baptism Instruction Class.
- Copy of Child's Birth Certificate.
- 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 for parents and Godparents are due upon registration.

Parents/Godparents may take the St. Stephen instruction class. A letter of completion will be provided after the course.

If the parents or Godparents take the baptismal instruction class at another parish, they must provide proof of instruction and a letter from their home parish that they are members in good standing and have permission to baptize at St. Stephen.