



Sacrament of Baptism

Infant Baptisms

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-giving grace, 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!

It is very important that the parents and godparents review and understand all the requirements for the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Margaret Mary.

If you plan to have out-of-town participants, it is recommended no travel arrangements be made until all the required documents have been received in the parish office and a Baptism date has been scheduled.

On the date of the baptism, it is customary for the child to wear white, but it is not mandatory. The parish will provide a baptismal candle for the child but gift sets may also be purchased for this special occasion at local retailers or the church gift store.



Child of God!

Baptism Date

The Baptism schedule is set by the pastor each month. A date will be set for baptisms done in English and another date for baptisms done in Spanish.

On each date, the number of baptisms is limited to eight infants or toddlers.

Once all required documentation is received in the office, you may come by to

schedule your baby's baptism on an open date. These dates are filled on a first-come first-served basis

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Special points of interest:

- Parents and Sponsors must attend baptismal prep class
- Sponsors have a special role
- Covenant forms are required of sponsors
- State issued birth certificate will be necessary for the infant

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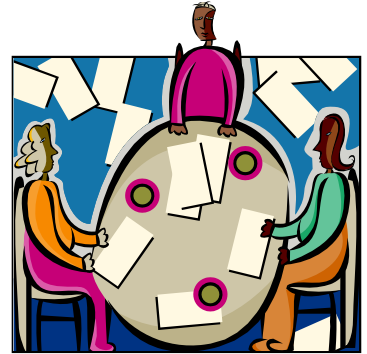
Baptismal Preparation Classes

Church guidelines require that instructions be given to parents and godparents before the Sacrament of Baptism is received. The instructions include the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and its obligations.

Baptism classes in English are held the third Monday of the month, Spanish classes are held on the second Monday each month. Classes start promptly at 7:30 pm. Regis-

tered members of the parish may enroll in the class by calling the office. If you are not a member of the parish, you must come to the office in order to register for the class.

Please do not take any documentation to the class.



Come learn about one of the seven Sacraments!

Required Documentation

Please do not make travel arrangements with out-of-town guests until you have scheduled the baptism date and you have been given a card to confirm the date. All required documents (A Request for Baptism Form and all documents for child and godparents) must be returned to the parish office

before the baptism can be scheduled. Incomplete documentation will not be accepted.

If you are baptizing outside your home parish, you must also provide a letter from your parish priest granting permission to baptize at St. Margaret Mary. These are the documents required for Baptism:

- A [Request for Baptism](#) form must be completed for each candidate for baptism.
- A State issued birth certificate.
- A [Godparent Covenant](#) Form from each godparent.
- A permission letter from your pastor if you are baptizing out of your home parish

Criteria for Parents

- At least one parent must be Catholic.
- Foster parents will require permission from birth parents.
- Adoptive parents must have final adoption paperwork.
- Catholic parents must attend Mass regularly and be willing to raise the child as a Catholic.
- If the parent is registered in another parish or lives within the boundaries of another parish, a letter from your pastor is required stating that you have permission to have your child baptized at Saint Margaret Mary.
- Parents need to attend a preparation class. Those who attend class in another parish must provide a letter giving the date and place where the class was taken. A baptismal prep class is valid for 3 years.

Criteria for Sponsors

A sponsor is a godparent who willingly accepts this religious responsibility. Therefore you must meet these qualifications as set out in [Canon Law](#):

- ✦ Godparents must be practicing Catholics. A non-practicing Catholic is not eligible to serve as a godparent.
- ✦ Catholics married outside the Church are not qualified to serve as godparent.
- ✦ Godparents who are single should be living in accordance to the tenants of our faith.

✦ Godparents should be baptized and confirmed and, if married, have been married in the Catholic Church, be older than 16.

Godparents must also sign a [Godparent Covenant](#) as required by the Diocese of Austin.

Godparents need to attend a preparation class at St. Margaret Mary or at their home parish. Those

who attend class at another parish must provide a letter from that parish giving the date/place where the class was taken.



Be a part of your God-child's life!

Role of the Sponsor

Godparents who accept this wonderful role should:

Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events...Christmas, Easter... and personal growth events... graduation, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a bible, spiritual book,

rosary, religious jewelry, or gift certificates for religious goods/books, or a retreat opportunity).

Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into

the Church community.

Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.

"Sponsors represent what is best of the Catholic church."

And most importantly, become a model of Christian living for your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith.

A Catholic lacking confirmation or a non-Catholic may serve only as a Witness or as a proxy for the Godparent.



Take part in your God-child's faith formation!

St. Margaret Mary
Catholic Church

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This information is for infant baptisms. If you would like information about baptisms for children ages 7 years and older, please contact [Robin Hambright](#), Director of the Religious Education Program. Robin can provide more complete information about the [Religious Education](#) program at St. Margaret Mary.

Adults seeking the Sacrament of Baptism are prepared through the [RCIA](#) Program.

An Offering from the heart...

Finally, a donation of \$50 is requested at the time of scheduling the baptism to assist us in defraying some of the costs associated with your child's Baptism. If you are unable to make a donation, please let us know. Your inability to give an offering will not keep your child from being baptized. It is also customary to show your gratitude to the celebrant with a monetary gift, the amount is at your discretion.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, you are welcome to call the church office at: 259-3126 or stop by during regular office hours:

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on

- Monday
- Wednesday
- Friday

8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m

- Tuesday
- Thursday



A joyous occasion!
