

BAPTISM POLICY

Christ the King Church
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Pastor

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Deacons:

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Cornelio Pulido
Kenneth L. Bissen, Jr.

Introduction: Why we baptize infants and children:

The primary sacrament of the Catholic Church is baptism. Through this, the individual becomes a part of the worshipping community. Most importantly, the mystery of baptism is that each person is born again, and becomes a disciple, a part of the body of Christ. As parents and godparents of a child to be baptized, you are making the first step for this child to become a member of this community. This community of faith welcomes new members, for through them, the faith of the community is enriched and grows. As this is an important decision that you have made, we have established the following policy for the preparation and administration of the sacrament. Whenever there is a question of this policy, the Code of Canon Law takes precedence.

General Requirements:

1. Parents must meet with some member of the Baptismal Team to be interviewed and fill out the Registration form. Please call the parish office at 877-6098 to make an appointment with someone. Both parents must attend, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Bring a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.
2. You must provide names of godparents. At the interview, Baptismal Sponsor Forms will be provided for the godparents to fill out.
3. Parents and Godparents are expected to attend two Baptismal Instruction classes.
 - a) On the First Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. (Teaching: Sacrament of Baptism and Symbols)
 - b) On the Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. (Teaching: The Role of Parents and Godparents)
4. Baptisms are scheduled on Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. No private baptisms are done except under extraordinary circumstances. Parents are to inform the preparation Team which Sunday they wish to have their child baptized.
5. Baptism dates will be scheduled once all necessary paperwork is turned in.

6. Both parents and godparents will be given a three-year class completion certificate. You will not have to repeat the class for another child if it is within the 3 years stated. However, if you do have another child to be baptized within the 3 years stated, you will be expected to come in and fill out the necessary paperwork.

Who can be Baptized?

1. There is no designated area at which a child is to be baptized. *The Rite of Baptism for Children* is for newborn infants and children who have not yet reached the age of discernment. If the child is of catechetical age (usually seven or a bit older), the child should be enrolled in a children's catechetical instruction program to be prepared for both baptism and first Eucharist. Contact the Department of Religious Education for information on these classes.
2. The marital status and faith status of the parents will be discussed at the interview session. It is expected that at least one parent be a practicing Catholic.
3. *The diocese expects parents to be registered in the parish which they reside and become members of that community. It is then expected that the baptism will be done in the parish in which they participate.* We also wish that parents not request to have a child baptized at these parishes unless they are participating members of the community. Under extraordinary circumstances it may be requested. Two conditions must be met:
 - a. The pastor of the parish in which the parents reside must give permission for the baptism to be done.
 - b. The baptismal preparation of parents and godparents must be done at the parish where they reside, and verification of that preparation must be presented.

Godparents:

1. In the baptism of infants, the parents take responsibility for choosing a godparent (s) who will serve as good examples for living the Catholic way of life. A godparent may later serve as the sponsor of the child when he/she is confirmed.
2. They must have completed their sixteenth (16) birthday and be a confirmed Catholic who is free to celebrate the sacraments.

3. A godparent cannot be bound by any canonical penalty. One's godparent can never be changed, since they are the historical witnesses to the baptism and have entered into a permanent spiritual relationship with the baptized.
4. It is customary to select two (2) godparents. If this is done, one must be male and one must be female. Only one godparents is required for baptism and may be either male or female, but that individual must be a confirmed Catholic. The church offers no provision for 3 or more godparents (sponsors). Any other sponsors are only witnesses.
5. A non-Catholic may be chosen as a witness for the baptism, provided there is at least one Catholic godparent. During the ceremony, the non-Catholic may perform all parts that the godparent does. The name of the person is entered in the parish baptismal register as a witness, together with the name of the godparent.

Baptismal Certificates:

A formal baptismal certificate, signed by the celebrant of the rite and with the church seal is provided for each child at the baptism. This is an official document. If at any time, you need to have an official copy of the baptism certificate, you must call or mail the church in which the child was baptized for such.

There is no charge for this services. If you wish, you may make a donation to the church and become an active member of the community serving in some ministry.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

\$50.00 / Parents

\$20.00 / per Godparent / Sponsor

(Donations will help towards the expense that the Church incurs for the cost of the certificates, candles, bibs, etc.)