

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Baptism Guidelines
Infants through Children under 7

PARENT INFORMATION

1. Parents must be registered, practicing members of St. Thomas More Parish.
2. Parents must complete a baptism registration form. This form is used to identify the child to be baptized, prepare the baptism certificate, and record the baptism in the sacramental register.
3. Parents registered in another parish who wish to have their child baptized at STM must first obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the church parish in which they are registered.
4. Parents are required to attend a baptism seminar. The parent attending must be Catholic. If a seminar was attended within a 3 year period, this requirement is waived.
5. **Baptism date cannot be set until a baptism seminar has been attended and all required paperwork is returned to the parish office.**

GODPARENT INFORMATION

1. At least one godparent is required for each child; however, two godparents are traditional.
2. At least one of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic who is over 16 years of age and has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. (Canon 874, #1, 2)
3. A godparent, if married, must be married according to the marriage laws of the Catholic Church - that is married before a Roman Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses. (Canon 874, #3, 4)
4. Godparents are required to attend a baptism seminar. If a seminar was attended within a 3 year period, this requirement is waived. *Documentation from the parish the seminar was taken must be sent to STM.*
5. Baptism sponsor form is to be filled out by the parish where the sponsor is registered and returned.
6. If the second godparent is not a Catholic, they are called a Christian Witness. These individuals must be baptized in their own faith and practicing their religion.
7. Godparents cannot be the mother or father of the baby.
8. If a godparent cannot attend the baptism celebration, a proxy can stand for them, but the baptismal register will list the actual godparent that has been selected.
9. **Baptism date cannot be set until a baptism seminar has been attended by the godparents and all of the required paperwork is sent to the parish office.**

Additional Information

- Parents will not be able to choose which priest will perform the baptism.
- Baptisms are celebrated during any Mass scheduled for the weekend, 4:30pm, 8am, 10am or 5pm.
- Baptisms are performed on designated Sundays, four or five times per year.
- We ask that on the day of the baptism, you arrive 30 minutes before Mass so that you can receive instruction on the baptism procedure during the Mass.
- There will be one pew reserved for each family. We ask that the parents and godparents sit on the end closest to the main aisle.
- Please check the baptism certificate before leaving church to make sure everything is correct.

*Please contact our parish baptism coordinator, Sarah Neau, in the church office at 225-275-3940
or sarah@stmchurch.org if you have any questions.*