

Holy Baptism is the basis of whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and the Word.

We share your joy and happiness in the birth of your child. You and your family have welcomed this child into the world. Now you desire that he or she be welcomed into our spiritual family.

During the Baptismal Rite, you will hear the following words spoken to you and the Godparents you have chosen for your child: “In asking to have your child baptized, you are accepting the responsibility to train him or her in the practice of the faith.”

The Christian life is one of continued growth, spiritually and intellectually. The occasion of the baptism of a child is a very special opportunity to look again at our faith commitment. It is a special time for parents to grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord and His Gospel.

The Two Great Principles:

1. Baptism, which is necessary for salvation, is a sign and the means of God’s prevenient love. Baptism frees us from original sin and communicates to us a share in divine life. The gift of these blessings to infants must not be delayed.
2. In order to fulfill the true meaning of the Sacrament, there must be a well-founded hope and assurance that he or she will be brought up Catholic by an authentic education in the faith and Christian life. If that hope is absent, then Baptism will be postponed so that the parents can receive formation in the faith, an opportunity to grow in their commitment to Christ and His Church. That growth expresses itself in regular Mass attendance and involvement in the life of the parish community. (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Instruction on Infant Baptism, n.28*)

Godparents

1. The godparents, together with the parents are present to profess the Church’s faith in which the child is being baptized. Therefore, to be appointed as godparent, the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.
2. To carry out the role of the godparent, the person must (Code of Canon Law 874.1):
 - a. Be appointed by the parents or whoever stands in their place.
 - b. Be mature enough to undertake this responsibility and be at least 16 years old.
 - c. Be a Catholic who has received the three sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist); and lives a life of faith in harmony with the duty they are undertaking. They are attending Sunday Mass on a regular basis and registered as a member of a Catholic Church for 6 months.
 - d. Not be bound by any canonical penalty (an example: if the godparent is married, he/she must be in a valid Catholic marriage.
 - e. May not be the father or mother of the child to be baptized.
3. A Christian of another communion (baptized, non-Catholic) may serve with a Catholic godparent, but only as a **Christian Witness** (not as a godparent). In these cases, the responsibility for the

Christian education of the child belongs to the godparent who is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. (Verification must be obtained from the godparent's home parish if not registered member of Christ the King.

4. If godparents are unable to attend, they may be represented by proxies
5. Our Jewish brethren can not be godparents or witnesses.

Names

The Catholic tradition is to name a child after a Saint. Care should be taken that the candidate for Baptism receives a name having Christian significance.

Baptism Preparation Class

Parents and godparents must attend a baptismal preparation class. You must attend it before the baptism of the child. It is recommended that you attend before the birth of the baby, if possible. Christ the King offers Baptismal Prep via Zoom on the first Tuesday of every month. The class begins at 7:30 pm and lasts roughly one hour. The Zoom link is sent to each person registered the day before the class.

Infant Baptism

Today the Church still recognizes the connection between faith and baptism. When a child under the age of 7 is baptized, the parents' faith speaks for the child who is too young to have explicit faith on his or her own. Before a child under the age of 7 is baptized, the Church requires a reasonable hope that the parents will raise the child in the Catholic faith and requires the parents and godparents to attend a baptism preparation class.

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that baptism is a sacrament, recognizes the life of Christ in the infant and welcomes them into Christian faith and community. As a sacrament, it brings with it responsibilities and commitments to share the gift of faith. For an infant, that faith and commitment must come from the parents and sponsors.

The sacrament reflects the need for parents to publicly commit themselves to sustaining and nourishing the child's faith. It is this public decision of the parents, supported and modeled by the godparents, following study and reflection that is celebrated.

Requirements for Scheduling a Baptism at Christ the King

Parents

- The parent of the child must be a registered, contributing parishioner six months prior to date of baptism or live within the parish boundary. Persons who grew up in Christ the King parish but have married and moved away are expected to celebrate the baptism of their children in the Catholic Church where they are presently members.
- At least one parent must be a practicing and active Catholic who will rear the infant as a Catholic Christian.
- Catholic parents and godparent(s) for the child **must** attend baptism preparation program before their child's baptism unless they have attended a program in the past 4 years. The preparation program gives parents and godparents an opportunity to reflect on their own faith, to learn more about the meaning of the sacrament of baptism, and to be made aware of the responsibilities of being Catholic parents or sponsors at baptism.

Godparents

A godparent is a person who will assist or take the place of the parents (in case of disability or death) in bringing the newly baptized up in the Catholic faith. Every newly baptized must have at least one godparent, but no more than two. Our Jewish brethren can not serve as godparents or witnesses.

According to Canon Law:

- A person may only have one or two godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, they must be male and female.
- For someone to be eligible as a godparent, they must be chosen by the parents and
 - Have the ability and the intention to fulfill the role.
 - Be at least 16 years of age.
 - Be a Roman Catholic, who has received First Communion and Confirmation, and is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including Sacramental Marriage, if applicable.)
 - Will be a good role model for the one being baptized.
 - Be neither the father nor the mother of the child.

Note: A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may be admitted only as a “Christian Witness” (not a godparent) provided that there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc. 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1255.) e.g. our Jewish brethren can not serve as godparents or witnesses.

Baptism for infants and children under the age of 7 is offered every Sunday at 2:00 pm except Easter Sunday. **Baptism cannot be scheduled until all of the following has been completed and submitted to the church office:**

Documentation Required

Checklist for Parents

- Properly completed baptism form
- Certificate that parents attended the baptismal preparation class
- If parents are non-parishioners, attach the permission letter from the church they attend.
- If divorced or absent parent, attach a letter from said parent giving permission to baptize the child.

Checklist for godparents

- Certificate that godparent(s) attended the baptismal preparation class.
- If godparents are non-parishioners or do not live within the boundaries of Christ the King, attach the permission letter from the church they attend indicating:
 - They are active members, and
 - They are eligible to be godparents.
- The godparent should qualify according to the Church's Canon Law (see below)

Who Can Be a Godparent?

The responsibility of a godparent is to help the baptized person lead a good Catholic life. The godparents promise to be an example in their own life and lead a Christian life that reflects the spirit and teachings of our Catholic Religion.

- The godparent is at least 16 years old
- He/she has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Proof may be asked in the form of sacramental certificates.
- If married, has to be not only civil married, but also married by the Catholic Church.
- The godparent has to lead a life of faith. Regularly attend Sunday Mass and receive Holy Communion and Confession frequently.
- The godparent must not be bound by any canonical or church penalty.
- There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Parents and godparents must attend a baptism preparation class at any Catholic Church. (Zoom classes from other parishes are acceptable.) Christ the King offers a Zoom class the First Tuesday of every month. It begins at 7:30 pm and lasts roughly 1 hour. You must be registered to attend.

A "Certificate of Baptismal Preparation" will be issued after the completion of the class.

A "Certificate of Baptism" will be issued at the time of baptism.

The Church does not charge for the sacramental celebration. Families often give a donation to the presider on the day of their child's baptism as a thank you for his time.