

BAPTISMAL PLANNING



Corpus Christi Catholic Church

To start, let us say that we rejoice with you and your family as you look forward to and plan for your child's baptism. Your child is very fortunate that your deep concern for his/her spiritual life moves you to make these preparations for Baptism. The joy and hope that comes with a relationship with God is the best gift you can offer your child!

We celebrate infant baptisms for children under seven years old. Children ages seven and older are invited to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism through our Religious Education program. If you are an unbaptized adult, our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) process might be right for you.

Where Do We Begin?

Because the Church recommends that the baptism take place shortly after the birth of a baby, parents are encouraged to register for Baptism preparation during pregnancy. We encourage parents to sign up at least three months before the desired baptism date.



For Parents Of A Child Under 7 Years Old: Parents must be registered parishioners of Corpus Christi and actively attending mass for at least three months prior to registering your baby for a baptism. If you need to register with us, you can do so by visiting our website at: <https://www.corpuschristisc.org/new-parishioner.html>

Following this, your next step is to fill out our online baptism registration form, which can be found at: <https://www.corpuschristisc.org/childs-baptism.html>. You will be contacted by the office after we receive and review your form.

For Members of another Parish: You will need to submit a “Letter of Permission” from your pastor which states that you are registered parishioners of that parish and which grants permission for the baptism to occur at Corpus Christi.

Please Do Not Move Forward With Any Further Steps Prior To Completing This

What Are The Parents Required To Do?

Parents must attend a Sacramental prep and a Baptism prep class. Please contact the office for information about when the next classes will be held.

* If you are not registered at Corpus Christi and are looking for a baptism class to attend in order to be a godparent at another parish, there are several online class options available. Please check with the parish where the child is being baptized to explore options.

If I've taken these classes in the past, do I have to re-take them?

If you and/or the godparents have already taken a Baptismal Preparation Course at Corpus Christi or another parish within the past three years, you do not need to retake the class. Just let us know when you register.

What Documents Are Required For A Baptism?

We need a copy of your child's legal birth certificate prior to the date of the scheduled Baptism in order to create your child's baptism certificate.



Jeremiah 29:11-13-For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

About Godparents:

Godparents have an essential role in the lives of those receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. Following are some helpful guidelines to remember as you select your godparents.

What is the role of the godparent?

The role of the godparent is to be a Christian role model for the child. He or she should be a mature Christian who will establish a lifelong faith relationship and will be willing to walk with the child on his or her faith journey.

Who chooses the godparents?

The parents of the child select the godparents. The parents of the child are not permitted to act as a godparent for their child's baptism. A godparent should be someone who will be a part of the child's life on a continuing basis, and be an excellent example of living the Catholic faith.

How old should godparents be?

Godparents should be at least 16 years old. The role of godparent is an adult role, so be sure that if you ask a young person to carry out this duty that he or she is mature enough to fulfill the tasks.

Do godparents have to be Catholic?

Yes, only fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) Catholics who attend Mass regularly and can receive the Eucharist are eligible to be godparents. An unbaptized or non-Christian person may not be a godparent for Baptism. If you have potential godparents who have not been confirmed, please let us know and we can work toward helping them to be fully initiated into the Church.

Must godparents be married in the Catholic Church?

Yes, if married, the godparent's marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church. If they are married civilly or in another Christian tradition, they are not eligible to serve as a godparent until their marriage has been validated by the Catholic Church. God uses moments such as the baptism of a new baby in the family to bring about unity to the broader family with the Church. There are many

different marriage situations and much confusion about teachings of the Catholic Church in this area. We are always interested to help work toward unity and reconciliation with families and the church, so please let us know if you have any questions or how we can help.

How many godparents can we select?

We recommend selecting two (2) godparents for your child, but you may decide to have only one. If you choose two (2) godparents, one must be male and the other must be female, and both must meet all the requirements.

What are the godparents required to do prior to the Baptism?

Godparents are required to provide a Sponsor Eligibility form, with the Parish Seal of the church that the godparents are currently registered to. It is also required that they attend (or have attended within the last three years) a baptismal preparation class. If they are not a parishioner of Corpus Christi, they may attend a class at their home Parish. A letter is required from the Parish to confirm attendance and good standing.



Proverbs 22:6 -Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

What to Expect On the Day of the Baptism

How will my child's baptism be recorded?

The Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. There, please be certain of the accuracy of all of the information on it (especially the spelling of names) and please ensure that it is written clearly and distinctively. A baptismal certificate will be issued to you and can be reproduced from Parish records in the future should you the need for it ever arise.

What clothing is appropriate for our child to wear?

A white Christening gown is customary, but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough around the neck to allow for the anointing of the child's chest.

Will we receive a Baptismal candle?

Yes! The Parish will provide a Baptismal candle and after the ceremony it will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous occasion. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future.

Are pictures and videos allowed?

Both photographs and videos are encouraged at the ceremony. These are excellent ways of sharing the joyous occasion now and in the future with your child.

Are there any fees?

There are no fees for having your child baptized. Often times a family will choose to make a gift to the Parish to help with the cost associated with your celebration and to assist with the ministry of the Parish. If you would like to offer a gift specifically to the celebrant of the sacrament, please designate your offering for him in the envelope that will be provided to you.



After you have reviewed all the information above, please follow these steps in order:

STEP 1

Fill out the Baptismal Preparation form on our website:

<https://www.corpuschristisc.org/chilids-baptism.html>

Please make sure that you are a registered parishioner with us and actively attending mass for at least three months before you complete this. If you need to register with us, you can do so by visiting our website at: <https://www.corpuschristisc.org/new-parishioner.html>

STEP 2

Sign up for and attend a baptism class

Information on when these classes take place can be obtained by contacting the Parish office during regular business hours at (803) 359-4391.

STEP 3

Prepare and return paperwork

You will need to gather information about your child, your family and godparents. You may bring this information to the Parish Office during office hours.

STEP 4

Schedule the baptism date

Once the parents and godparents have attended the Baptismal Preparation Course, and you have returned all required paperwork, we will schedule your baptism date at the Parish Office.