

## BAPTISM

**Baptism is a sacrament**, an action of Jesus Christ in his Church. A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace, instituted by Jesus. Grace is given to the soul of the person who receives the sacrament. In this sacrament, Jesus Christ

- forgives original sin and opens the gates of heaven for us
- welcomes us into his Church
- makes us the sons and daughters of God

Baptism is not simply a “naming ceremony” It is the beginning of the Christian life and the gateway to eternal life. Because of this, the sacrament of Baptism is taken very seriously in the Catholic Church.

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**Do you have an older child or adult in your family and/or among friends who has not been baptized?**

Please call the parish office and ask about how we can support them in receiving baptism.

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*“Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.” Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213*

## A FEW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

### How soon should my child be baptized?

Children should be baptized within the first weeks after birth. *We encourage you to speak with us about the baptism in the 4th-6th month of pregnancy.* You can arrange a date for the Baptism before the child is born. *(The priest will also be able to give the blessing for an expectant mother and pray for the safe delivery of the child.)* It is wrong to put off the Baptism simply in order to have a more elaborate celebration party afterwards. It is better to have the Baptism sooner and make the celebrations more simple. You could then always have a big party for the child’s first birthday if you wish.

### I am not married. Can my child be baptized?

**Yes.** A child may be baptized so long as there is a well-founded hope that they will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith. If you have any questions about marriage in the Catholic Church, please ask the priest because there are often misunderstandings in this area.

### What if I am registered at another parish?

If you are registered at another parish and wish to have your child’s baptism at Christ The King then you will need to present a letter of permission to baptize from the Pastor of the Parish at which you are registered or attend mass

## RESPONSIBILITIES of PARENTS

**The ceremony of Baptism assumes a well-founded hope that you will bring your child up in the practice of the Catholic Faith.**

**This means:**

- you teach your child to pray
- you teach your child to lead a good Christian life
- you come to Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation
- you teach your child the Catholic faith



### The Ceremony

**Baptisms are carried out during Mass on THE LAST SUNDAY of each month.**

During the Baptism there are various ceremonies the Priest or Deacon will explain. A candle is also given as a sign of the resurrection of Jesus. **The Church will provide this baptismal candle.**

## Requirements for Godparents/ Sponsors

- One Godparent is sufficient, but there may be 2 (1 male and 1 female).
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Must attend Mass (at any Catholic Parish) every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation
- Must be in 'good standing' within the Catholic Church. If married, godparents need to be married in the Catholic Church. If single, must be living a chaste celibate life.
- Should believe, live and promote the fullness of the Church's teaching. For example, on Respect for Human life from natural conception to natural death.



CHRIST THE KING

## The Sacrament of Baptism *Christ the King Catholic Church*

### How to Register:

The Baptism Preparation Program requires that parents do the following:

### Visit the parish office. You will need to:

- bring an original birth certificate
- fill out a registration form
- arrange a meeting with THE PASTOR

### What happens next?

#### PREPARATION CLASSES

Parents & Godparents attend 2 preparation classes prior to the selected Baptismal date.

These classes will be held on:

**the 2nd and 3rd SATURDAY of every  
month at 4:00 - 5:30pm**

**There is a suggested donation of \$25**

#### Christ the King Catholic Church

3423 Rojo St.

Corpus Christi, TX 78415

Phone 361-883-2821

Fax 361-883-5391

Parish Office hours

Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

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CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

*"Go therefore and make disciples of  
all nations, baptizing them in the  
name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, teaching  
them to observe all that I have com-  
manded you; and lo, I am with you  
always, to the close of the age."  
Matthew 28*



*I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit*