

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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Rev. Stephen Vacek, Pastor

The Church rejoices with you in the gift of the life of your child. Thank you for saying yes to this precious gift of God's Love! You and your child are made in the image and likeness of God.

As parents, you are the primary teachers of your child. You have chosen to bring your child to the life-giving waters of Baptism. It is the moment when Christ Jesus purifies, justifies, and sanctifies (cf. 1 Peter 1:23) the soul of your child from the Original Sin, which we believe as Christians was passed down from Adam and Eve. Your child will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. This is only the beginning of the faith journey! The Church looks forward to supporting you in your journey of leading your child by example into the sacraments of Confession, the Most Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Priesthood, Religious Life, or Marriage, and the Anointing of the Sick. We seek to support you, in the raising of your child in the Roman Catholic Faith.

To assist you in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism we have included the guidelines, forms, and explanations of requirements for the parents and godparents. Please note that in the United States of America a Baptismal Certificate of the Roman Catholic Church is considered a legal document. Therefore, when scheduling a Baptism, a copy of your child's State-Registered Birth Certificate is required prior to the baptism. This document is used to ensure all legal names, etc. are properly recorded in the permanent records of the Catholic Church.

Please drop off all required documentation to the parish office or place it in the secure mailbox. Father or Deacon will reach out to you to schedule all required baptismal classes, etc. Please include two dates for potential baptismal classes.

Please know you remain in my prayers and may God bless you!

Semper,

Rev. Stephen Vacek

Pastor

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Holy Cross Catholic School

Baptismal Standards and Guidelines

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

- A.** The Sanctifying Role of the Church (Code of Canon Law, c. 842, 849; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213, 1263, 1265, 1267 – 1270).
- Baptism is the first sacrament and gives access to the other required sacraments. It is also the act that forgives sins, grants spiritual rebirth, and makes one a member of the church (CCC, 1213). The Catholic Church also believes that Jesus requires one's baptism in order to receive eternal life.
 - Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism begins our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from Original Sin. In confession, we are absolved from sins committed after Baptism.
- B.** Guidelines and information for an infant or older child's Baptism (Code of Canon Law, cc867 - 868; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1251)
- a. In order that a child be baptized, it is necessary to have the parent's consent or at least one of them, or someone legally standing in their place, and that there is reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic Faith.
 - b. Parents are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism as soon after birth as possible. Except in case of necessity, the church is the usual place of baptism.
 - c. During the rite of baptism, after the parents request the sacrament of baptism for their child, the priest or deacon states, "You are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith." Then, before the pouring of water, the instruction to the parents is repeated: "Make it your constant care to bring your child up in the practice of the faith."
 - d. The parents are the leaders of the home, the domestic church. It is the basic unit and foundation of the Church. As such, their full, actual and conscious practice of their Faith is an ongoing lesson on how to be a dynamic Catholic.
 - e. The child learns faith through assimilation and witness of those around them. By the witness of the parent's love of God and their neighbor as themselves, the child learns to love God and their neighbor as themselves. By the parent's life of daily prayer, weekly attendance at Mass, and living the precepts and teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, the child learns to imitate what they experience in living their Catholic Faith.
 - f. The parent's pledge at baptism also includes ensuring that their child completes their Sacraments of Initiation through frequent Confession, reception of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation as well as living the Catholic faith in their daily lives.

Required Documentation

Please Note: All documents/requirements must be completed and returned to the parish prior to reserving a Baptismal date at Holy Cross or Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Baptism may be scheduled after the weekend Masses.

We request that parents collect all required documents at home and bring them personally to the Parish Office or place them in the secure mailbox. Father or Deacon will reach out to you to schedule all required baptismal classes, etc. Please have two dates prepared for potential baptismal classes.

Requirements for Parents:

- Be a registered member of Holy Cross or provide a Letter of Permission to Baptize from the pastor at your current Roman Catholic Church.
- Parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class within the last 3 years or provide a letter of attendance to class at another Catholic Church.
- Parents are responsible for providing all sponsor documentation to the Parish.

Birth Certificate:

- As part of the process of preparation for baptism, it is necessary to bring a copy of your child's official State-Registered birth certificate to the Parish Office. A copy will be made, and the certificate will be returned to you.

Permission to Baptize In another Parish:

- Please call or visit the parish office and provide the following information:
 - Date of participation in Parent Baptismal Class or proof of attendance if you attended at a different Catholic Church.
 - Child's name
 - Name of the city, parish, and state where baptism will take place.
 - Date of Baptism
 - Name of Contact person at that parish

Godparents

- Normally, two godparents are chosen for your child (Canon Law requires that there be one male and one female). If necessary, only one godparent may be chosen for your child. A godparent must be an active, practicing Catholic. This sponsor must meet the following criteria:
 - Be designated by the candidate, parents, guardians, or pastor
 - Have the intention of performing the role of godparent
 - Be at least 16 years of age
 - Be a fully initiated Catholic (baptism, first communion and confirmation)
 - If the individual is married, they must be married in the Catholic Church
 - If not married, they must be living the single state of life.
 - Actively following the Precepts of the Catholic Church.
 - Not bound by any canonical penalty
 - Not the father or mother of the child
- Your Catholic godparent(s) must:
 - Be a registered member of Holy Cross or their home parish.
 - Complete the Godparent Eligibility Form
 - Have a Godparent Letter of Verification of Full communion with the Church from their parish. The letter must be signed by the pastor and stamped with the parish seal. (Verifies membership and attendance at another church)
 - A copy of the Godparents sacramental record of each Godparent is required. (Verifies full communion in the Catholic Church)

Godparents that are unable to be present on the day of the Baptism, can be represented by proxy. A proxy can be a family member, a friend or a parishioner who will stand in for your official godparent on the day of the Baptism.

*At least one of the people you choose must fulfill these requirements. If you wish to honor a non-Catholic member of your family, they may stand as a Christian Witness to your child's Baptism, provided they have already been baptized. Only Godparents are recorded in the Sacramental Records of the Catholic Church.

For the Baptism of an Older Child (1st thru 8th graders)

- Please contact the Director of Religious Education (Deacon Kevin Knox) for information about their baptismal preparation.
- Children in 1st through 8th grade will be required to attend a Baptismal Class specially designed for children their age.
- Children are also to be enrolled in the parish CCD program or if the parent chooses, may attend the Parochial Catholic School.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
2001 Katy Ave.
Bay City, Texas 77414

BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM

Date: _____ Phone:(h) _____ (cell) _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth (*Please provide birth certificate*): _____

Child's Place of Birth (city/state): _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Religion: _____

Mother's Name (using maiden name): _____

Mother's Religion: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Are the parents of the child married in the Catholic church? Yes No

If no, where were you married? _____

CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS ATTENDANCE FOR PARENTS: (circle one)

Father: Weekly Twice a Month Monthly Seldom Attend Do not Attend

Mother: Weekly Twice a Month Monthly Seldom Attend Do not Attend

Are you registered in Holy Cross Parish? Yes No

If no, where are you registered? _____

GODPARENTS: (please refer to attachment for requirements)

Godfather: _____

Is he a Catholic? Yes No **IF NO**, see explanation on *witnesses*. Canon 874 §2

Is he married? Yes No **IF YES**, is he married in the Catholic church? Yes No

Godmother: _____

Is she a Catholic? Yes No **IF NO**, see explanation on *witnesses*. Canon 874 §2

Is she married? Yes No **IF YES**, is she married in the Catholic church? Yes No

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

ATTENDED CLASS:

Father: Yes ___ (Date: _____) No ___ Why not? _____

Mother: Yes ___ (Date: _____) No ___ Why not? _____

Godfather: Yes ___ (Date: _____) No ___ Why not? _____

Godmother: Yes ___ (Date: _____) No ___ Why not? _____

BAPTIZED BY: _____

DATE BAPTIZED: _____

RECORDED IN REGISTER: _____

TYPED CERTIFICATE: _____