

**REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
(INFANT - Ages 0 - 6)**

**Blessed Sacrament Church 2219 Galveston St.
Laredo, TX 78043
(956) 722-1231 Fax: (956) 722-2823**

(please read it carefully!)

1. Parents who are not registered at Blessed Sacrament Church and plan to become active parishioners (after six months participating at Sunday Masses) may register and get the donation envelopes or choose online giving. Those parents who do not reside within our parish boundaries need to obtain a courtesy letter of permission from the parish they attend.
2. The child's original Birth Certificate **MUST** be provided at the time of registration. In the event that this document is not available at that time, original document **MUST** be provided prior to the date of the scheduled baptismal class.
3. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for registered parishioners and \$50.00 fee for non and newly registered parishioners due at the time of registration (registration is recommended but not a must).
4. The following requirements pertain to the Godparents:

Baptism is not a private act. It is a public, official liturgy of the Church and welcomes someone into the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, the Church has the duty and obligation to require sufficient criteria for being a sponsor. The sponsor is to assist the parents and the child in living a Catholic life. In order to do so, the sponsor needs to provide good example of living that life. A person who is not Catholic, or who is not living in a way consistent with the faith, obviously cannot provide the example that is part of the task of being a Godparent. The role of Godparent is a role of service done in the name of the Church, and the person who is a sponsor should be capable of performing that service.

Although it is preferred to have two Godparents, only one Godparent is required. There cannot be two females or two males. (Canon Law Chapter IV 873).

If Godparent is a single individual:

Godparent **MUST** be a practicing Catholic (*Canon Law Chapter IV 872, 873, 874*)

Godparent **MUST** be at least 16 years of age.

Each godparent **MUST** provide proof of having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Each godparent **MUST** provide a letter from the parish where they attend Mass, which states that the individual is a parishioner in good standing (attends Mass regularly) and has permission to be a Godparent in our parish.

If Godparent is a married individual:

a. Godparent **MUST** be a practicing Catholic (*Canon Law Chapter IV 872, 873, 874*)

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

Each Godparent (if not married to each other): **MUST** provide a proof of a Catholic Church marriage.

Each Godparent(s) **MUST** provide a letter from the parish where they attend Mass, which states that they are a parishioner in good standing (attend Mass regularly) and have permission to be a Godparent in our parish.

5. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class, which will be scheduled for the Thursday at 7 p.m. in the church, before the date of the Baptism. In the event that parents or Godparents cannot attend this class, they have the option to attend the baptismal class at any other Catholic Church. **Proof** that the baptismal class requirement has been met **MUST** be provided to Blessed Sacrament Church **PRIOR** to the date of our baptismal preparation class.

NOTES:

If parents are in a mixed religion marriage, the Catholic parent **MUST** be the one to request the Sacrament of Baptism for their child.

It is a requirement of the Catholic Church that at least ONE godparent **BE CATHOLIC**. The non-Catholic godparent will be considered a WITNESS to the baptism, and his or her name **WILL NOT** appear on the Baptismal Certificate as such. There **cannot** be two females or two males. (Canon Law Chapter IV 873).

Baptisms are performed on the third Sunday of each month after 12 noon Mass (please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass), except when that date coincides with a religious holiday. The parish will announce these alternative baptismal dates in the weekly bulletin of that particular month.

In the event that you are unable to keep the scheduled baptism date, PLEASE notify the parish office for postponement or rescheduling information.

Revised 04/18/24