

# Guidelines for Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Teresa of Avila Parish



St. Teresa of Avila Parish rejoices with all expectant parents and we look forward to assisting our parishioners who will be planning baptisms at our church. Our parish usually celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Due to the serious responsibilities that infant baptism places on parents, those presenting their child for baptism at St. Teresa's Parish must attend our Pre-Jordan Class. Expectant parents are encouraged to attend this class prior to the birth of their child.

Since godparents serve as official representatives of the Catholic community in this important role of honor and witness in the life of the child, godparents must meet the following requirements. These are specified by universal Church law and the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

1. One Catholic godparent is required. If two are selected, one must be male and one must be female. There can be no more than two godparents.
2. A Catholic godparent must be at least 16 years old and must be registered with a parish.
3. A Catholic godparent must be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist) and who is living a life in harmony with the Church.
4. If married, a Catholic godparent must be *validly* married in the Catholic Church.
5. A Catholic godparent must provide St. Teresa of Avila Parish with a Certificate of Eligibility for Sacramental Sponsorship from his or her parish.
6. A baptized non-Catholic, who is a practicing member of another Christian community, may serve as a Christian Witness. A Christian Witness is asked to provide a copy of his or her baptismal certificate.
7. A non-practicing Catholic or a baptized Catholic who has left the Catholic Church and attends another denomination may not serve as a Christian Witness.

Donations on the occasion of a child's baptism are welcome and appreciated.

If you would like to register for our Pre-Jordan Class, schedule your child's baptism, or have questions regarding the requirements for godparents, please contact Maureen Clark at 610-666-5820.