



St. Martha Catholic Church

Infant Baptism – General Information

Baptism is the gateway to the Christian life and the very first sacrament your child will receive.

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood, that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom.

– Henri Nouwen

1. **Infant Baptism** is for children from birth to 6 years of age. If the child is 7 years old or older, he/she has to go through the RCIC process (the Rite of Catholic Initiation for Children). For registrations for RCIC, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 281-358-1959.
2. **Baptisms are celebrated normally on the second Saturday of each month.** There are exceptions to this. For Baptisms dates call the Parish Office. English baptisms are at 9:30 am but families need to arrive at 9:00 am. Spanish baptism are at 11:00 am but they need to arrive at 10:30 am.
3. **A three-hour Baptism class is required for the parents and godparents of children to be baptized.** The baptism class includes preparation for the actual ceremony and a review of what will be required. **The baptism class is normally on the second Saturday of each month from 10-12 in Spanish and English in the Family Life Center -3702 Woodland Hills Dr., Kingwood TX 77339 (valid for 2 years).** For Baptisms Classes dates call Indiana Francis at 281-358-6637 ext. 255 or email indianaf@stmartha.com. In order for the parents and godparents to be able to attend the class they must speak with Indiana at the parish office (281-358-6637 ext. 255 or indianaf@stmartha.com) to sign up. The class last 3 hours and childcare is provided for children between 1 and 5 years old. Class Certificates are provided at the end of the class upon request.
4. **Parents need to fill out a form for each child to be baptized.** This form will be emailed to you once you speak with Indiana. The form must be completed and brought to the baptism class. If for any reason the parents are not taking the class here at St. Martha, they need to contact Indiana Francis at the Parish Office (281-358-6637 ext. 255 or indianaf@stmartha.com) to request the form.
5. **Parents must provide a copy of the birth certificate.** Parents can bring the copy to the Baptism class, can fax it to 281.358.7973, email it to indianaf@stmartha.com or mail it to St. Martha's, (Attn: Indiana, 4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365). The baptism does not have to wait, but a baptism certificate will not be issued until the copy of the birth certificate is provided to Indiana at the Parish office.

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4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, Texas 77365

Phone 281-358-6637 / www.stmartha.com

"Baptized into Christ Jesus we worship as one and reach out to all"

6. **Requirements for Godparents.** One or two persons are permitted as godparent(s). It must be one male and/or one female. Godparents must be over the age of 16 and have received all their sacraments including confirmation. If they are married, they must be married in the Catholic Church or validated in the Catholic Church. Godparents must be a practicing Catholic. A non-Catholic Christian, could only be a “Christian witness.” In case that the parents choose to have a Christian witness, they must have a practicing Catholic godparent as well for their child. **Godparents must take the Baptism Class.** They can take the class at their own parish. For more detail information about the requirements of the godparents go to [Godparents Requirements](#).
7. **Requirements for Parents-** Parents don’t have to be married in the Catholic Church in order to baptize their child, if they are divorce or not raising their child together and have joint custody, they must have a letter signed by the other parent giving permission to baptize their child. Parents that have adopted a child must have a birth certificate with their names on it or have a court order saying that they are the parents.
8. **Baptizing a baby whose family is from outside of the parish:** They must meet all of the above requirements. They must take the class at their own parish and have a letter giving them permission to baptize their child at St. Martha. If the family is not registered at a parish, whatever church they live closest to, is their home parish whether they are registered or not. For more detailed information contact Indiana Francis at the Parish Office (281-358-6637 ext. 255 or indianaf@stmartha.com).
9. **Baptism elsewhere:** Occasionally we will have a member of the parish who is baptizing their child elsewhere. They are to come to the class, but since they are not baptizing the child here, they don’t need to provide the copy of the birth certificate. If the parish of baptism asked for a letter of permission, please contact Indiana Francis at the Parish Office (281-358-6637 ext. 255 or indianaf@stmartha.com).

IMPORTANT: Parents need to talk to Indiana Francis (281-358-6637 ext. 255 or indianaf@stmartha.com) in order to have a space and date for the baptism.