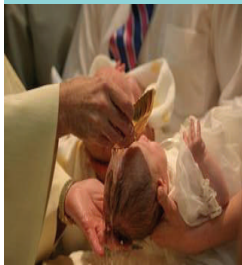


# The Sacrament of Baptism at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church

Baptism is the first of the sacraments, by which one becomes a member of the Church and a new creation in Christ. It is the first of the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist .



Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism can be done during pregnancy. If you are having a baby, plan for your child's baptism, NOW. Attend a Baptism Preparation class to learn more about the sacrament and the church's guidelines. Classes meet the **second Tuesday of each month at St. Clare Hall from 7-8:30 pm. No registration is necessary.** Call the Parish Office at 623-935-2151, ext. # 215 with additional questions.

## **Baptism Preparation Classes**

August 9, 2011  
September 13, 2011  
October 11, 2011  
November 8, 2011  
December 13, 2011  
January 10, 2012  
February 14, 2012

No class in March, 2012  
because of Lent

April 10, 2012  
May 8, 2012  
June 12, 2012  
July 10, 2012

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, in keeping with policies set forth by the Diocese of Phoenix on the Sacrament of Baptism, has established the following guidelines:**

- Living in our parish boundaries or Parish Registration is required for the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Adult children, 18 years and older, are encouraged to be registered separately from their parents, in order to have their own children baptized or to be godparents.
- If YOU are a Catholic living outside our parish boundaries, you must be a registered and an active parishioner at Saint Thomas Aquinas for at least 6 months, before asking for the Sacrament of Baptism.
- If you are moving your parish registration to Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, the 6 month waiting period can be waived by presenting a letter from your former parish, indicating that you were an active member there.
- Baptisms are performed on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

If you have attended a class in the last three years, another Baptism Preparation class is not necessary. Call the Parish Office at 623-935-2151 and ask for ext. # 215, to find out the necessary steps to schedule a Baptism.

## **Roman Catholic Canon Law**

### *Requirements for Catholic godparents for the Sacraments of Baptism.*

- The Catholic godparent must be at least 16 years of age.
- The Catholic godparent must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.
- The Catholic godparent must be a member of a Catholic Parish and be "in good standing." This means that the Catholic is attending Mass every week, is in reception of the Sacraments, and is not living with someone outside of marriage. Catholic godparents you have chosen, are required to obtain a "Letter of Verification" from their parish stating that they are practicing Catholics, registered at that parish, and eligible to be a godparent.
- The Catholic godparent, if married, must have been married within the Catholic Church by a deacon, priest, or bishop.
- If two godparents are chosen, they may not be of the same gender.
- There may be no more than two godparents.
- If both are Catholic, both must meet all of the criteria above.



"Godparents help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it"  
(Code of Canon Law # 872).

### **Frequently asked godparent questions:**

- **What are the duties of parents and godparents?** In infant baptism the godparent, together with the parents, presents the child for baptism and helps the baptized to lead the Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it. (Code of Canon Law 872).
- **What if the godparent cannot be present for the Baptism?**  
If the godparent cannot be present in person, he or she may appoint another person to serve as a proxy.
- **Can a baptized non-Catholic be a godparent?** Yes. Such a person is known as a Christian witness. The Christian witness must be at least 16 years old, a validly baptized Christian, living an upright life.

## **Why is it IMPORTANT to REGISTER as a PARISHIONER?**

As the parish continues to grow at such a fast rate, it is important for families to register at the parish. Why? To be eligible for the following programs, YOU must be a registered, active parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community or living within our parish boundaries.

- Sacramental Programs: *Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist and Religious Education programs.*
- Weddings and Funerals.
- Active parishioner verification for Catholic elementary and high schools.
- **Baptismal godparent letters and Sponsor letters for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**