

QUESTIONS ✕ ANSWERS

Must I be a Corpus Christi Parishioner to have my child Baptized there?

In most circumstances we baptize the children of Corpus Christi parishioners. If you live in the area but are not registered at the parish, we will first ask you to register. There are some limited circumstances where we baptize children whose parents do not live in the area.

When do Baptisms take place?

Baptisms take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Church. Parents are encouraged to attend the 11:30 AM Mass with their family on the day of the child's Baptism.

Is there a fee for Baptism?

There is no set fee for Baptism. Most parents make a donation to Corpus Christi on the day of their child's Baptism.

Do I have to take a class?

One parent must attend a Baptism Prep Class which takes place on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in Church. Both parents are encouraged to attend but only one parent is required to be present. Godparents are encouraged but not required to attend. If you have already baptized another child and have already attended a class, you will not have to attend the class again.

One parent is not Catholic?

Your child can still be baptized even if one parent is not Catholic. If that parent would like to become Catholic they can inquire about the RCIA process.

We are not married in the Church?

Although you are not married in the Catholic Church, your child can still be baptized. During the preparation of your child's Baptism, we will discuss the possibility of having your civil marriage recognized by the Church.



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

WE WORSHIP. WE BELIEVE. WE EVANGELIZE. WE SERVE.

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Celebrating The Sacrament of



BAPTISM

**Corpus Christi Parish
Willingboro, New Jersey**

Dear Parent(s),

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

We at Corpus Christi Parish are so pleased that you have chosen to bring your child to the saving waters of Baptism. By this first Sacrament your child will be forgiven of original sin, made a son/daughter of God, will begin their initiation into the Catholic Church and will receive an indelible spiritual seal marking them for Christ. Your child’s full initiation into the Catholic Church will take place when they receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. It is our sincere hope as a parish to spiritually walk with your family during all of these important milestones in your child’s life.

By the regular participation in the Eucharist your child will learn, from his/her earliest memories, what being a disciple of Jesus Christ truly looks like. By the witness of the Catholic faith being lived outside of the Church building, and brought into your home, your child will discover that faith encompasses and transforms every aspect of our lives. As a parent you will be the first teacher in the way of faith and the example of discipleship that your child will learn from.

We at Corpus Christi take this Sacrament seriously because, as St. Gregory of Nazianus said: “Baptism is God’s most beautiful and magnificent gift!”

Pax Christi,

Father Jakub

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213)

Water

At the dawn of creation, the Spirit of God breathed on the waters of earth making them holy. In the great flood, water marks the end of sin and a new beginning of goodness. The Israelites passed through the Red Sea and were delivered from slavery to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

In Baptism we are baptized with water as a sign of our participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ. Freed from the power of evil, God’s life and love can prevail.

Oils

Holy Oils are used in Baptism as a sign of God’s favor, blessing and healing. In the Old Covenant anointing with oil was used on those called to a specific task in God’s kingdom. Oil in Baptism is a sign that we are called to be priest (living a life of prayer), prophet (announcing the Word of God) and king (having dominion over ourselves by not allowing sin to control us).

Baptismal Candle

A candle is given as a reminder that through Baptism we have been enlightened by Christ who is the light of the world. We allow the light of Christ to shine in our lives by not allowing the darkness of sin to extinguish the light of Christ.

White Garment

The white garment is an outward sign of the great dignity of being a Christian. We are reminded to keep the garment of our soul free from sin throughout life in order to attain everlasting life in heaven.

G O D P A R E N T S ✕ S P O N S O R S

In accepting this responsibility, the Catholic sponsor must state that he or she:

- ✕ Is at least 16 years of age.
- ✕ Has received the Sacraments of Initiation, i.e., Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
- ✕ If married, was married in the Catholic Church or with the approval of the Catholic Church.
- ✕ Attends Mass regularly on Sunday and Holydays of Obligation.
- ✕ Understands and accepts the responsibility of a sponsor and promises to be a support and example in his or her efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church.

Do both Sponsors need to be Catholic?

Ideally, if the parents of the child to be baptized are both Catholic, it is strongly encouraged that both Godparents should also be of the Catholic faith. However, when this is not possible, one sponsor may be a Non-Catholic Christian Witness. A Christian Witness must be baptized and a member in good standing in their faith. A Christian Witness may only be accepted as a witness to Baptism together with a Catholic sponsor.

Do Sponsors need to be a male and a female?

Yes. Only one male and one female may fill the role of Godparents, or if only one Godparent will stand, only one of either sex is allowed.

Do all sponsors need Letters of Eligibility?

Yes. All sponsors must present a Letter of Eligibility granted from the parish the sponsor is registered with and must be presented to Corpus Christi Parish as soon as possible. The requirement for Letters of Eligibility also applies to Christian Witnesses.

N.B.: A date for the Baptism cannot be accepted until the Letters of Eligibility are in our files.