

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church



## Baptism Policies

5830 Williams Drive  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412  
*[www.olphcctx.org](http://www.olphcctx.org)*

Updated: 11-11-2014

## **Baptism Policy of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church**

Congratulations!

We celebrate with you the gift of life you have received in your child. Just as you will provide for the best of life's opportunities for your child, we rejoice that it includes providing the best for their spiritual life that begins in the Sacrament of Baptism. We have provided this information to assist you in preparing for the celebration of the sacrament, and the baptismal life of your child.

Congratulations again!

Peace,

Fr. Frank X. Martínez, STL  
Pastor

Fr. Joseph Nguyen  
Parochial Vicar

*Holy baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the 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: "Baptism is the sacrament of the regeneration through water and in the word." -Catechism of the Catholic Church*

## **Baptism**

What is baptism?

In the Gospel of Matthew (28:19-20) the Lord commanded his disciples to “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” In this command, it becomes clear that baptism is essential for becoming a Christian and a disciple.

### **So why is Baptism necessary?**

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that, “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway of the life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the 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: ‘Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the world.’” (CCC 1213)

The Sacrament of Baptism is not merely symbolic. It accomplishes what it symbolizes: we are washed clean from our sins and the life of the Holy Trinity dwells in our souls. It is through this gift of Baptism that we become a part of the Body of Christ and we become a “Christian”.

### **How can one be baptized at Our Lady of Perpetual Help?**

As an adult, or a child that is over the age of seven (7), you would be invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for Children). You may contact Deacon Armando at the parish office (361) 991-4867. We will gladly explain the process and how you can be a part of it.

For infants, please refer to the Parish Baptismal Policy. If you have additional questions, again, we’d be happy to answer any and all of them for you.

## **Requirements for the Celebration of Baptism**

- By Church law, a priest or deacon can only celebrate the baptism of an individual who is part of the parish family they are called to shepherd. Registration with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is, therefore, a required first step if it has not already occurred.
- For families who have moved or recently registered with the parish, a letter must be obtained from their former parish indicating that they are practicing Catholics.
- For families from other parish communities who wish to have the baptism take place here, a letter of permission from their own parish community is required.
- Fill out baptism registration form
- Copy of child(s) Birth Certificate
- Parents and Godparents must attend religious instruction (“catechesis”) from the Church concerning the responsibilities of raising a child in the Catholic faith. We offer this instruction at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on a regular basis on a Saturday morning (see the section on Baptism Catechesis).
- Baptismal dates are scheduled after the catechesis has been attended. This helps to avoid postponements due to complications that could prevent parents from being able to attend the scheduled catechesis.

## **Parental Responsibilities**

- By Church requirements, parents must give their assurance that the child will be given every benefit of catholic upbringing. The responsibility of raising the child in the ways of the faith begins immediately with Baptism and extends all the way to adulthood.
- If parents are not able to make this commitment to the Church community, they must consider delaying the celebration of baptism until they are prepared to undertake these responsibilities or the godparents.

## **Choosing Godparents**

- Godparents are chosen by the birth parents to assist hem in their Christian parenting. They must, therefore, be models of the Catholic faith and examples of prayer, worship and Christian practice.

- The Church does not required two godparents. When there are two, however, there can be only one godmother and one godfather. The godparent (s) must be confirmed and be practicing members of the Church.
- If godparents are chosen, and are not members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, we require that each godparent obtain a letter from their pastor stating they are members in good standing of their church.

## **When is Baptisms Celebrated?**

Baptisms are celebrated during our Sunday scheduled Masses once every to months only after the parents and godparents have completed the baptismal catechesis class. The schedule for the classes and dates for bi-monthly baptisms may be obtained on-line or by contacting the Parish Office. Our secretary, Graciela Tercero, will assist you in scheduling your Catechesis, and upon completion, the date of the baptism when you show her the certificate of catechesis completion.

## **Baptism Catechesis Schedule 2015**

In order to assist parents in the responsibility they are undertaking in having their child baptized, we offer a Baptismal catechesis in which we share an understanding of both the Sacrament and the Ritual as it is celebrated. Because we know how important this is to the parents and godparents, and to avoid any conflict in life's ever changing schedules, we will wait until the parents have been able to attend catechesis before scheduling the baptism.

The current schedule for Catechesis is listed below and is held at 10:00 am for two hours every first Saturday morning facilitated by Fr. Frank. We generally meet in the Hall unless otherwise noted.

### Catechesis Meeting in Hall B

January 10, 2015	July 11, 2015
February 7, 2015	August 1, 2015
March 7, 2015	September 5, 2015
April 4, 2014	October 3, 2015
May 2, 2015	November 7, 2015
June 6, 2015	December 5, 2015

## **Baptism Schedule 2015**

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated communally during a Saturday or Sunday weekend Mass every other month. There are exceptions to that schedule based on public holidays and community observances (please take note of the schedule dates below).

Please note, in order to avoid any surprises or difficulty that could arise with your schedule, we assign the actual Baptismal date only after the parents and godparents have been able to attend the baptismal catechesis and the requested paperwork has been received in our office. A Check List has been added to this policy to assist you in obtaining all necessary paper work and requirements. The baptism schedule below is to help you anticipate your participation in the catechesis.

Baptism will take place at one of the following Mass times of your choice:

Saturday (Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Sunday	11:00 am
Sunday	12:45 pm (Spanish)

### Baptism Dates

February 8, 2015

April 5, 2015

June 7, 2015

August 2, 2015

October 4, 2015

December 6, 2015

## **Stipend**

During registration you will be asked to pay a \$10.00 fee. If you are an active parishioner in our parish there are no fees required (Please review “what an active member of the parish” consists of).

## **Questions to Consider**

**1.) Am I a practicing Catholic?** A practicing Catholic joins the Christian community for Sunday Mass on a weekly basis, has a clear understanding of the Catholic faith, and is actively involved in the activities and programs of the parish community.

**2.) Am I a parishioner?** A parishioner is a registered active member living their faith at Our Lady of Perpetual Help’s worshipping community.

**3.) What Constitutes an Active Member?** Active member of the Church is determined by the following:

- a.) Being properly registered in the parish for at least 1 year.

- b.) Faithful attendance at Mass on Saturday vigil or Sunday Masses and Holy Days.
- c.) Financially supporting the parish by using the envelope or electronic system of giving for the support of parish.
- d.) Active in at least one parish ministry, organization or parish school.

## **People You May Need to Contact**

Church Office	Office Number: (361) 991-7891
Baptism Coordinator:	Deacon Arnold Marcha Number: (361) 549-3022 deaconamarcha@olphcctx.org
Pastor:	Fr. Frank X. Martinez, STL Office Number: (361) 991-7891 E-mail: revmartinez@olphcctx.org
Parochial Vicar:	Fr. Joseph Nguyen Office Number: (361) 991-7891 E-mail: revjnguyenolphcctx.org

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church Baptism Check List

Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Godparents Names: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **(Enter date)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Form
2. \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 fee
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of Birth Certificate
3. \_\_\_\_\_ For families who have moved or recently registered with parish, a letter from previous pastor indicating that you are practicing Catholics.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ For families from other parish communities who wish to have the baptism take place here, a letter of permission from their own parish community.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism Catechetical Session (enter date completed)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism (enter date)

### **Completed Paperwork**

- Registration Form
- Copy of Baptism Certificate
- Necessary letter: Letter from pastor or community you are an active Catholic

**BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and School**

**PLEASE PRINT**

**Child's Full Name:**

**First** \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**