

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

## Baptism Information

[www.stjosephkilleen.org](http://www.stjosephkilleen.org)

Parish Office, 2903 E. Rancier Ave. Killeen, TX 76543

Phone: 254.634.7878 Fax: 254.634.1508

As parents and godparents, we are called to be good stewards of the gift of children by providing for their spiritual needs, starting with Baptism. The primary teachers of the baptized are parents and godparents whose responsibility is to see that their children learn about the faith and practice it regularly.

However, there are certain guidelines that must be followed:

### FOR THE INFANT/CHILD THROUGH AGE 6:

- A child may be baptized up until their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. If they are the age of 7 or older, they are required to attend Religious Education adapted for Children where they will be baptized, receive First Communion and be Confirmed. If this is the situation of your child, you must speak to our Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Maria Guerra, for more information.

### FOR BOTH PARENTS/GODPARENTS:

- Both parents and godparents are required to attend a pre-baptismal preparation class, whether it be here at our parish or elsewhere. If the parents/godparents **do not live** within St. Joseph parish, they can attend a baptismal preparation class at their local parish and submit their proof of attendance.
- If the parents/godparents do not live within St. Joseph-Killeen parish boundaries or are not registered at St. Joseph, they **MUST OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION** from their priest for the baptism to take place outside their parish.
- English Baptisms are celebrated on the first Sunday of every month at 2pm and Spanish Baptisms on the second Sunday of the month at 2pm. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS, UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE WITH FR. CHRIS.**
- Baptismal preparation classes are held once a month, one in English and one in Spanish. Classes in both English and Spanish are held on the first Tuesday of the month. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

### FOR GODPARENTS:

- As a Baptism godparent/sponsor, your role is to encourage the faith and to be an “example” to your godchild.
- The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as godparent(s) at Baptism (Canon 874):
  1. You *may not* be the parent of the child being baptized.
  2. You must be at least 16 years old.
  3. You must be a fully initiated Catholic-having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist (First Holy Communion) and Confirmation. Non-Catholics can only be witnesses along with Catholic godparent(s). **Provide an updated baptismal certificate and/or a confirmation certificate.**
  4. **If married, it must be a valid Catholic marriage (married in the Catholic Church) and a marriage certificate must be submitted along with the paperwork.**
  5. For godparents who are not members of St. Joseph, they will need a letter of permission from their parish where they belong stating that they are in good standing with the Church.
  6. It is required that the godparent(s) attend a pre-baptismal preparation class.
  7. They must submit a godparent/sponsor covenant form

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION & FORMS

**This packet along with the following documents need to be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the desired Baptism Date:**

\*Baptismal Application-signed by parent(s)

\*Copy of birth certificate of the child

\* **Updated baptismal certificate with notations and confirmation certificate for godparent(s)**

\* **Marriage certificate for godparent(s)**

\*Baptism Sponsor Covenant Form for each godparent