



Saint Andrew Catholic Church  
3312 Dryden Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

## BAPTISM GUIDELINES

*Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are reborn as children of God,  
and welcomed into the community of faith.*

### Parents

Parents should understand that presenting their child for Baptism is a promise to faithfully raise their child in the Catholic faith, and to be an example of Christian living for their child. In order to be baptized at Saint Andrew, the following requirements must be met:

- One parent should be practicing their Catholic faith.
- Parents must reside in Saint Andrew Parish boundaries, or be registered in Saint Andrew parish.
- Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class. (See “Baptism Preparation Classes” for details.)
- Parents are to complete a purple “Baptismal Form” along with a copy of the child’s birth certificate and return it to the Pastoral Center prior to the scheduling of the baptism.

### Godparents

In order to serve as a Godparent(s), the following requirements must be met:

- Each Godparent MUST be a confirmed Catholic and practicing their Catholic faith.
- One Godparent is required but you may have two, one male and one female.
- Godparent(s) are to be at least 16 years old.
- Married Godparents must be in a valid Catholic marriage.
- Godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation class, either at Saint Andrew or in their own parish. (See “Baptism Preparation Classes” for details.)
- Godparents are to complete an orange “Godparent Certificate”, which must be signed by the pastor of their parish with the church seal, and returned to the Pastoral Center prior to the scheduling of the baptism.

People of other Christian denominations who will be a **witness** to living a Christian lifestyle for the child will be considered witnesses, NOT Godparents.

## Baptism Preparation Classes

Parents(s) and Godparent(s) will be prepared for their role as examples of Catholic Christian living by attending a Baptism Preparation session in fulfillment of the requirement of Canon #851, #2 of the code of Canon Law.

*“ The parents of an infant (or child) who is to be baptized and likewise those who are to undertake the office of Godparent are to be properly instructed in the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations which are attached to it.”*

St. Andrew’s Baptism Preparation sessions are offered on the last Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and the third Thursday in November. (Exceptions will be noted in the parish bulletin). The program is held in the Parish Hall from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Pre-registration for Baptism Preparation is required two weeks in advance of the date you plan to attend. Please call 927-5383 to make reservations. Childcare is available by reservation only. Please call 924-6581 at least 48 hours in advance and leave the date, event, names and ages of your children needing childcare. Reservations not made by the 48-hour deadline will be accepted on the consideration of space available.

Guidelines for Baptism Preparation classes are as follows:

- Parents and Godparents who have participated in the program within the past **3 (three)** years, need not repeat the program. Documentation of previous participation **within three years** will be required.
- Parents and Godparents may participate in the program before or after the child is born.
- Godparents who live out of town are expected to attend Baptism Preparation classes offered in their own parish or any other parish. **A letter confirming participation in another Baptism Preparation program must be sent to Saint Andrew, and will serve as validation of the readiness of the Godparent to assume their responsibilities as Godparents.**
- The Baptism Preparation classes are the same for Parents and Godparents.

## The Celebration of Infant and Children's Baptism

### Scheduling

Baptisms are held in the Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. They may also be celebrated at any Mass of the parent's choice any weekend of the month, subject to availability.

**Special Note: Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent (from Ash Wednesday – Easter Sunday).**

Baptisms will be scheduled ONLY when all requirements are met, including preparation of Parents and Godparents, and when required documentation is on file at Saint Andrew. Upon receipt of the necessary forms, your baptism may be scheduled.

If you have family who will be traveling to attend the baptism of your child, please wait until your baptism has been scheduled to make any travel arrangements.

### Ceremony

A Baptismal garment and candle will be given to you at the time of the Baptism.

**Flash photographs are not permitted during the Celebration of Baptism.** The celebrant will be happy to pose for pictures with your family and friends following the Celebration. Videotapes may be made from the choir loft, or from the rear of the chapel.

### Parish Records

All Baptisms will be recorded in the Parish records from the information provided on the registration form. Please be sure to use the **legal names** on all forms. The parish records cannot be changed once an entry is made.

If we can be of help in any way, please feel free to contact us at 817-927-5383.