

**St. Edith Stein Catholic Church
Katy, Texas**

**INFANT BAPTISM
Information Package**



"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." Matthew 28: 19-20

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift....We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal and most precious gift." Catechism of the Catholic Church #1243

If you are expecting or if you have recently had a baby, congratulations!

We celebrate baptisms on the last Sunday of every month (with the exception of Sundays where a Holy Day or Holiday falls) for babies and children **under seven years old**. However, we have limited spots available. Before you begin any preparations (travel, venue reservations etc.), please check with Mayra May mm@stedithstein.org to make sure the day you are looking for is available. Please note that baptism preparation classes are only offered four times a year at St. Edith Stein Catholic Church.

The following are the requirements to baptize here at St. Edith Stein Catholic Church:

- 1) You need to be a member or live within the boundaries of the Parish. Otherwise, you will need a letter from your home Parish giving you permission to baptize at St. Edith Stein.
- 2) Parents need to attend a **baptism preparation class prior** to the baptism, or have taken a class within 2 years of the date of planned baptism. We strongly encourage Godparents to attend the class as well, but it is not a requirement for them.
- 3) Keep in mind that Baptism Certificates are considered a form of legal identification; therefore, you will need to bring your child's original birth certificate to the office for us to view and copy. No Baptism Certificates will be issued unless the original state issued Birth Certificate is presented.
- 4) A Godparent is an important person in the life of the child to be baptized. They are **1)** a spiritual role model, **2)** an example of the Catholic life and **3)** the official representative of the Body of Christ, into which an individual is being baptized. They are to be a source of guidance, support, and inspiration to this child on his or her faith journey and, when appropriate, help the parents in the Catholic formation of this child.

Therefore, there may be up to **two** Godparents, only one male or one female. A suitable Godparent is to be chosen following the norms of the Code of Canon Law.

To be admitted to the role of a Godparent, a person must:

- be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place, or in their absence, by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
- be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist and leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on; for example, Married in the Catholic Church, if Single, not cohabitating;
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; for example, one who is in an irregular marriage cannot be a sponsor;
- Not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized; A non-baptized Catholic person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except; together with a Catholic sponsor and then, only as a witness of the baptism.

Frequently asked questions about suitable Godparents:

Does the Godparent(s) must be Catholic? Absolutely! A Godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the Godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church.

Do Godparents need to be confirmed? Yes, a Godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

What is a Christian Witness? A Christian Witness is any Christian of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church. Also a Christian Witness must be respectful of the Catholic faith and willing to raise your child as a practicing Catholic in the absence of the parents. ***Please note that a Christian Witness is NOT a baptized Catholic who later pursued a different Christian Faith, or can't serve as a Godparent.***

Can my child have two Christian Witness as Godparents? No, your child will need at least one suitable Godparent. Together a Christian Witness with a suitable Godparent may serve for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may NOT serve as a Godparent or Christian Witness.

If the Godparent does not take Communion, can he or she be a Godparent? No. The Godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.

Do Godparents need to be married in the Catholic Church? If married, whether to each other, or someone else, Godparents must be married in the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either **a)** in a Catholic Church ceremony or **b)** in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage convalidated by the Catholic Church. **Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a Godparent.**

What if the Godparent is not married? If unmarried, a Godparent must be living life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church and not in co-habitation.

Baptism Classes at St. Edith Stein Catholic Church

As part of the requirements to baptize at St. Edith Stein, both parents (and strongly suggested for Godparents) must attend a baptism preparation class prior to the baptism date.

Here at St. Edith Stein we offer a one day preparation class. These are the dates scheduled for the baptism classes in 2018: Sunday September 16, and December 16. There is a \$10 donation per set of parents or Godparents, due at the time of registration. This donation includes all the necessary material for the baptism class.

To schedule your child(ren) baptism or class, please contact Mayra May via email at mm@stedithstein.org, to set an appointment. Please no walk-ins.

Once you have scheduled an appointment with Mayra May, please bring the following with you.

- 1- A complete baptism inquiry form (see attached).
- 2- Unless the baby is yet to be born, bring the original birth certificate. Please note that we can't issue a baptism certificate without having a copy of the original birth certificate on record.
- 3- \$10 cash or check payable to St. Edith Stein Catholic Church as donation for the course materials. Please note that there is one set for parents and an additional for Godparents.



What to expect...

The Day of Class:

- We provide a light lunch.
- Please be aware that if you leave before class is over, you may have to re-enroll on the next available class. The same applies if you are more than 10 minutes late.
- We offer free daycare while you attend baptism class. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to schedule daycare. Space is limited and it is on a first come first serve basis.

The Day of your child's Baptism:

- Bring a **white candle and washcloth**.
- Be at the church by 12:30pm so we can assign seating, and take care of last minute details.
- The Baptism ceremony begins promptly at 1:00pm. Please encourage your guests to be on time.
- You may have up to two photographers or videographers. We thankfully ask, to please remind them that they are in a place of worship and to please respectfully observe instructions.
- We assign two pews that seat between 15-20 guests, but please let us know if you need additional seating. We will do our best to accommodate your request.
- Dress Code: Please be mindful and remind your guests about dressing with reverence due to God. Men must wear shirts, dress pants and shoes. Women may wear skirts, dresses or pants. Dress length should be at knees. If top is sleeveless or strapless, it must be worn under a jacket or sweater.
- Please remind your guests that no gum, drinks or food is allowed in the church.
- Sit back, relax and enjoy this very special moment in your child's life.

Baptism Inquiry Form

(one per child please)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ENTIRELY AND PRINT LEGIBLY

Child's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Are you Catholic? _____ If not, what is your faith tradition? _____

Sacraments completed: Baptism _____ Eucharist _____ Confirmation _____

Are you married? _____ If yes, were you married in the Catholic Church? _____

Complete Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Are you Catholic? _____ If not, what is your faith tradition? _____

Sacraments completed: Baptism _____ Eucharist _____ Confirmation _____

Are you married? _____ If yes, were you married in the Catholic Church? _____

Is the family registered as a member of St. Edith Stein Catholic Church? _____

If not, what is your parish? _____ . Please make sure you have a permission letter to baptize outside your parish.

Are you baptizing your child(ren) here at St. Edith Stein Catholic Church? _____ if not where? _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone number: _____

Name(s) of Sponsor(s)/Godparent(s): _____

The Sponsor(s)/Godparent(s) we have chosen for our child:

_____ Is (are) at least 16 years of age

_____ Is (are) active practicing Catholic(s) that received Confirmation, receive(s) Holy Communion and attend(s) Mass regularly

_____ If single, is not cohabitating.

_____ If married, has been married in the Catholic Church.

_____ In lieu of one Sponsor/Godparent, my child will have a non-baptized Catholic ecclesial witness.

His/Her name is _____

Would you need nursery for your children while attending baptism class? If so, please indicate how many children you have and their ages. _____

We _____ parents of _____

_____ Fully understand that:

*We are requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for our child and that as part of the requirements:

* We must attend baptism classes or provide copy of the certificate of attendance dated within two years from the date of our child(ren) planned baptism.

* Also, the Sponsors/Godparents we have chosen for our child meet the requirements following the

norms of the Code of Canon Law and described within this Infant Baptism Information Package. It will be our responsibility, as parents, to provide suitable Godparents/Sponsors.

*We also understand that there is a \$10 donation for the course materials. Please note that there is one set for parents and an additional for Godparents.

Signature of the Mother

Signature of the Father