

Baptism Guidelines for the Good Shepherd Parish Community

Welcome parents and parents-to-be to the Baptism Program at both Good Shepherd and Immaculate Conception Catholic Churches. We look forward to meeting you as you begin the first stage of your child/s initiation into the Catholic Christian Community. These guidelines and information are designed to help the process go as smoothly as possible.

Classes are offered to parishioners on the first Saturday of every month. However, if there is a conflict with a holiday, please consult the weekly bulletin and the parish website.

If you are not formally registered at Good Shepherd or Immaculate Conception, please fill out a registration form and participate in weekend Masses and practice stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Parents and/or Godparents are expected to attend the Baptism Class facilitated by the parish Baptismal Team. Before attending the class, please insure that all the required paperwork is complete and turned into the Church Office.

State Birth Certificate - Your child's baptism certificate is a legal document. It is necessary that the birth certificate be issued by the state where your child was born. San Antonio birth certificates are issued at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Office during the week. Certificates issued by the Hospital are mementos and cannot be used.

Godparents are required to attend the Baptism class, and possess a letter from their parish stating that they are practicing Catholics and have permission to be a Godparent. One Catholic Godparent is required and may either be male or female: at least 16 years old and be a fully initiated practicing Catholic; i.e., has received the following sacraments Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmed and if Married, was married in the Catholic Church or had their marriage blessed at a later date.

Per Canon Law 873:

If you choose two Godparents one must be male and one female. Ideally they will both be Catholic however one may be non-Catholic. They must be baptized in a Christian faith, in the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with water). Proof of Baptism is required (a copy of their Baptismal certificate). They will be listed as a Christian Witness and not as a Godparent on the Baptismal form.

A parent cannot be the Godparent of a child to be baptized.

If Godparents cannot be present for the ceremony, please consider your option of a proxy. It is strongly discouraged that a grandparent of the child be a Godparent.

Godparents need to attend the baptism class or show record that they have attended a baptism class in order to be Godparents.

Godparents need to complete the Baptism registration form.

The Godparent letter(s) need to be faxed from church to church, or may be mailed from church to church and have the church seal on it. Fax # 210-658-7051

Godparent letters are not to be hand carried. They need to be faxed or emailed from the church that the Godparent(s) attends.

The Baptism will be scheduled once you have completed the baptism preparation, baptism record form, birth certificate, and the Godparents' letter/baptismal certificate have been received.

All paperwork must be received in the office, No Exceptions,

Baptisms are scheduled by the Baptism Coordinator: (210) 658-4350.

Baptisms are generally not scheduled during the Seasons of Advent and Lent.