

BAPTISM POLICY

Christ the King Church
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Pastor:

Rev. Father Efren Tomas, MS

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Father Anil Kochuthazhath Varghese, MS

Deacons:

Cornelio Pulido

Kenneth L. Bissen, Jr.

Introduction: Why we baptize infants and children:

The primary sacrament of the Catholic Church is baptism. Through this, the individual becomes a part of the worshipping community. Most importantly, the mystery of baptism is that each person is born again, and becomes a disciple, a part of the body of Christ. As parents and godparents of a child to be baptized, you are taking the first step for this child to become a member of this community. This community of faith welcomes new members, for through them, the faith of the community is enriched and grows. As this is an important decision that you have made, we have established the following policy for the preparation and administration of the sacrament. Whenever there is a question of this policy, the Code of Canon law takes precedence.

General Requirements:

1. Complete the Registration Form and submit it to the office as soon as possible with a copy of the Birth Certificate from the State of Hawaii. Both parents must attend the classes unless there are extenuating circumstances.
2. At least One parent must promise to raise child as a Catholic.
3. Our policy is to Baptize all children regardless of marital status of parents.
4. Parents and Godparents are expected to attend one Baptism Instruction class.
5. It will be held on a Thursday at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Once registered the exact class date will be given to you.
6. (Teaching: Sacrament of Baptism and Symbols, Role of the Parents and Godparents)
**during the Covid Pandemic - Class Schedule to be announced*
7. Baptisms are scheduled on Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. No private baptisms are allowed except under extraordinary circumstances.
8. Baptism dates will be scheduled once all necessary paperwork is submitted for both the child and godparents and classes are completed.
9. Godparents will be given a certificate of completion. You will not have to repeat the class for another child if it is within the 3 years since your first baptism class. However, if you do have another child to be baptized within the 3 years stated, you are still required to complete the necessary paperwork for that child and interview process.

Who can be Baptized?

1. There is no designated area in which a child is to be baptized. *The Rite of Baptism for Children* is for newborn infants and children who have not yet reached the age of discernment. If the child is of catechetical age (usually seven or a bit older), the child should be enrolled in a children's catechetical instruction program to be prepared for Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Contact the Faith Formation Office for information on these classes.
2. The marital status and faith status of the parents will be discussed. It is expected that at

least one parent be a practicing Catholic.

3. *The Diocese expects parents to be registered in the parish which they reside and become members of that community. It is then expected that the baptism will be done in the parish in which they participate.* We also wish that parents do not request to have a child baptized at the parish they are not registered in. Unless permission is granted by your Pastor where you are registered allowing you to do so. It is important that you are a participating member of the community. Under extraordinary circumstances it may be requested. Three conditions must be met:
 - a. The Pastor of the parish in which the parents reside must give permission for the baptism to be done.
 - b. The baptismal preparation of parents and godparents must be done at the parish where they reside, and verification of that preparation must be presented.
 - c. Parents of the child cannot be their child(s) godparent.

Godparents:

1. In the baptism of infants, the parents take responsibility for choosing a godparent(s) who will serve as good examples for living the catholic way of life. A godparent may later serve as the sponsor of the child when he/she is confirmed.
2. They must have completed their sixteenth (16) birthday and be a confirmed Catholic who is free to celebrate the sacraments. (Canon Law # 874.1.2)
3. Must be registered in a Parish.
4. A godparent cannot be bound by any canonical penalty. Ones' godparent can never be changed since they are the historical witnesses to the baptism and have entered a permanent spiritual relationship with the baptized.
5. It is customary to select two (2) godparents. If this is done, one must be male and one must be female. Only one godparent is required for baptism and may be either male or female, but that individual must be a confirmed Catholic. The church offers no provision for 3 or more godparents (sponsors). Any other sponsors are only witnesses.
6. A non-Catholic may be chosen as a witness for the baptism, provided there is at least one Catholic godparent. The name of the person entered in the parish baptismal register is the catholic godparent(s).



Baptismal Certificates:

A formal baptismal certificate, signed by the celebrant of the rite and with the church seal is provided for each child at the baptism. This is an official document. If at any time, you need to have an official copy of the baptism certificate, you must call or mail the church in which the child was baptized for such.

There is no charge for this service. If you wish, you may donate to the church and become an active member of the community serving in a ministry.

Suggested Donations: \$100 for Church (must be paid prior to baptismal date)

 Priest/Deacon is optional (given directly to the celebrating clergy)



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