

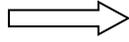


**ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CHURCH OFFICE: (210) 654-1643**

**BAPTISMAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

**“Holy Baptism is the basis of the entire Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God, we become members of the Body of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word.” CCC#1213**

The very nature of Baptism is communal as the child is being received into the family of the children of God. Therefore, if necessary, Baptisms can be bilingual and several children may be baptized in the same ceremony. **Baptisms are held on the fourth Saturday of every month at 11:00 AM. There are no baptisms during Lent.**

We provide the candle and a garment. Example:  If you prefer, you may bring a candle or garment of your choice.



There is not a set fee, but some kind of stipend for the priest or deacon is appropriate. It can be whatever amount you want, and you may give it to him after the baptism is finished. **If your child is 7 years old or older, he or she must enroll in a 9 month program that prepares him or her to receive the three sacraments of initiation at Easter: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.** For more information please contact the Parish Office at (210) 654-1643. This same process applies for any unbaptized youth or adult.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**1. BAPTISMAL CLASSES**

**Parents are required to take a Baptism class. Godparents are highly encouraged** to attend the same class, **but are not required.** Baptism classes are offered at St. John Neumann or you may take the class at another Catholic Church. If so, you must provide proof of attendance. St. John Neumann **classes are valid for 2 years from the date of the class.** Classes will only be held if there is a need and are **offered on the first Tuesday of each month** with the exception of the month of October, Parish Festival and Holidays; in this case, the class will be rescheduled. Please come to the Church office and register no later than the Friday prior to the class. Classes are offered at the Parish office building from 7:00PM - 8:30PM.

## 2. **BIRTH CERTIFICATE:**

You *must* provide SJN with an *Original* copy of the state issued birth certificate. A hospital copy will not be accepted. We can only baptize your child with an official state issued certificate. If you do not have the original copy of your child's birth certificate and your child was born in Bexar County you can contact the Bexar County Vital Records at (210) 207-8815 for information or request a copy from their website at, [www.sanantonio.gov/health](http://www.sanantonio.gov/health) and click on "birth certificate". If your child was born some place else, you need to contact the Office of Vital Statistics in the city or state.

## 3. **SPONSOR, "GODPARENT" QUALIFICATIONS:** To qualify to be a Godparent, you must:

- \*Be a practicing Catholic
- \* Be 16 years of age or older
- \*Be Confirmed
- \*Married in the Catholic Church if not single
- \*Godparents cannot be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

You may have (2) godparents, **one male and one female only**. You do not have to have two godparents, **one godparent is enough**. If one of the people you have chosen for godparent is baptized, but does not fulfill the above-mentioned requirements, this person can stand up as a Christian witness but their name will not appear on the certificate as a godparent. You will still need to have one godparent who meets all the requirements.

## 4. **LETTER OF PERMISSON /CERTIFICATION:**

If the parents are not registered parishioners at SJN, they must live within our boundaries in order to qualify for baptism in this parish. Otherwise, a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish where the parents reside is mandatory according to Canon Law.