

# Saint Theresa Catholic Church



## Baptism & Quinceanera Policies

1302 Lantana St.

Corpus Christi, TX 78407

[www.sainttheresacc.org](http://www.sainttheresacc.org)

# Baptism Policies at Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Dear Friends,

To the child to be baptized, congratulation! This time of preparation for your child to be baptized is a wonderful time. In order to help you in the best possible way, this booklet has been developed so that you may be able to understand more fully the Sacrament of Baptism, *the door which gives access to the other Sacraments* (CCC 1213).

It is important to remember that the two most important things for baptism of your child are:

1. Your attending baptism class together with the godparents, and
2. The actual celebration of the baptism.

It is these two priorities that are the focal points of Saint Theresa's baptism preparation process. So in the spirit of offering you useful information as well as answers to common questions, you are encouraged to keep this booklet handy.

Peace,  
Fr. Joseph T. Nguyen  
Pastor

When should we contact the parish?

Contact Father Joseph Nguyen in advance of the date on which you hope to celebrate baptism of your child. Since baptisms at St. Theresa's are done on the first Sunday of the month after the 10:00 AM Mass. An instruction class for parents and godparents is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Room to be determined at 7:00 PM. Please register for classes in the parish office and bring the child's birth certificate.

What is Baptism?

The sacrament of baptism ushers us into the divine life, cleanses us from sin, and initiates us as members of the Christian community. It is the foundation for the sacramental life.

## Questions to Consider

Due to the seriousness of the Sacrament of Baptism, we invite you to consider the following:

1. Am I prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for my child? Catholic faith testifies that "the fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ" (CCC 1279). It is the duties of parents and godparents of the child to be baptized to help the child to grow in the faith that he/she is baptized.

2. Who can receive Baptism? According to the Church's teaching, "Every person not yet baptized and only such a person is able to be baptized" (CCC 1246).
  - a. For Adults and children over the age of seven: After two years of attending OCIA (for adults) or OCIC (for children over the age of seven), he/she will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil. However, our Bishop would have our children, depending on his/her age now, to be joined to Confirmation class with other children at the same age. Therefore, he/she will receive Baptism and First Holy Communion at Easter Vigil only. These sacraments of initiation are Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
  - b. For children under the age of seven: After parents and godparents attended the class of Baptism, the child will be baptized on the first Sunday of the month.
3. Am I a parishioner? A parishioner is a registered active member living their faith at Saint Theresa's worshipping community.
4. What Constitutes Active Member? Active member of the Church is determined by the following:
  - a. Being properly registered in the parish for at least 1 year.
  - b. Faithful attendance at Mass on Saturday vigil or Sunday Masses and Holy Days.
  - c. Financially supporting the parish by using the envelope or electronic system of giving for support of parish.
  - d. Active in at least one parish ministry or organization.

## Documents you will need

1. A copy of birth certificate of the child.
2. If the parents of the child married, if they were not married in the Catholic Church, they are highly encouraged to have a convalidation by contact the pastor.
3. If the godparents married, they had to married in Catholic Church. Need marriage certificate from the Catholic Church.

## The Baptism Ceremony

The celebration of Sacrament of Baptism is in the Church. There are some baptismal symbols worth to know:

1. **Water** – The waters of baptism recall Jesus' own baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. Water is a symbol of cleansing and renewal as we begin a new life in Christ. We are washed clean of sin.
2. **Oil** – At baptism we are anointed into the life of Christ as "priest, prophet and king." A cross is traced on the candidate's forehead as a reminder that we are inheritors of the Kingdom of God.
3. **Light** – The baptismal candle is lit from the Paschal or Easter candle that stands in the church as a sign of Christ's light in the world. At baptism, we receive the light of Christ and are called forth to share this light with the world.
4. **White garment** – The white garment that is placed upon us at baptism is a symbol of Christ's victory over death and his glorious resurrection. Likewise, the white garment or pall that is placed

over the coffin at the time of death recalls our baptismal promises and reminds us that we are destined for eternal life.

Fees and Offerings: The Baptism Preparation Fee must be paid by the time you meet with the Baptism Coordinator up to the day of Baptism. Baptism date cannot be reserved without paying the church rental fee. Catholic priests and deacons do not "charge" a fee for officiating at Baptism, but if the parents of the child wish to give an appreciation gift, you are welcome to do so. We ask that you please designate it as such.

## **Baptism Fee Schedule**

The prices listed below are our best estimates only and may change. Please contact the resource listed to find the actual costs.

### **Saint Theresa's Fees:**

These fees are paid to Saint Theresa Catholic Church to provide the following services.

1. Baptism Preparation: \$25.00  
This covers the candle and the white garment used at Baptism.
2. Church
  - a.) Active Member: Uses collection envelopes and involved in any church ministry **No Cost**
  - b.) Registered Parishioner: Uses collection envelopes **\$10.00**
  - c.) Out of Parish: Not registered **\$25.00**
  - d.) Out of Parish yet desires to join parish community **\$25.00**

## **People You May Need to Contact**

|            |                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor:    | Fr. Joseph T. Nguyen<br>Office: (361) 280-2759<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:pastor@sainttheresacc.org">pastor@sainttheresacc.org</a>   |
| Secretary: | Valerie Zaragoza<br>Office: (361) 280-2759<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@sainttheresacc.org">secretary@sainttheresacc.org</a> |

# *Quinceanera* Policies at Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Dear Friends,

To *Quinceanera*, congratulations! This time of preparation for you enter the woman adulthood. To help you in the best possible way, this booklet has been developed so that you may be able to understand more fully the customs and traditions of *Quinceanera*.

It is important to remember that the three most important things for *Quinceanera* of your teen are:

1. You're attending *Quinceanera* class
2. You're attending *Quinceanera* retreat
3. The actual celebration of *Quinceanera*

These three priorities are the focal points of Saint Theresa's *Quinceanera* preparation process. So in the spirit of offering you useful information as well as answers to common questions, you are encouraged to keep this booklet handy.

Peace,  
Fr. Joseph T. Nguyen  
Pastor

When should we contact the parish?

Contact *Quinceanera* Coordinator in advance of the date, at least six months prior to the date on which you hope to celebrate *Quinceanera* of your teen. Your teen has to be enrolled in our religious education.

What is *Quinceanera*?

Among several Spanish-speaking countries and among many Hispanics in the United States there is the custom of celebrating the passage from childhood to adolescence with a ritual that expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and that asks for a blessing from God for the years ahead.

Documents you will need

1. A copy of baptismal certificate of your teen.
2. If the parents of the teen married, if they were not married in the Catholic Church, they are highly encouraged to have a convalidation by contact the pastor.
3. If the baptismal godparents married, they had to married in Catholic Church. Need marriage certificate from the Catholic Church.

The *Quinceanera* Ceremony

The celebration is in the Church. There are some religious articles worth to know:

1. **Bible** – It is the instruction for a Christian life to follow.
2. **Rosary** – it helps the teen to meditate on the events in the lives of Jesus and of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.
3. **Cross** – It reminds the teen that Jesus' suffering, passion, and death for the sake of our salvation. It is an invitation to pick up her own challenges and difficulties of life to journey with Jesus.

Fees and Offerings: The *Quinceanera* Preparation Fee must be paid by the time you meet with the *Quinceanera* Coordinator up to the day of *Quinceanera*. *Quinceanera* date cannot be reserved without paying the church fee. Catholic priests and deacons do not "charge" a fee for officiating at *Quinceanera*, but if the parents of the teen wish to give an appreciation gift, you are welcome to do so. We ask that you please designate it as such.

### ***Quinceanera* Fee Schedule**

The prices listed below are our best estimates only and may change. Please contact the resource listed to find the actual costs.

### **Saint Theresa's Fees:**

These fees are paid to Saint Theresa Catholic Church to provide the following services.

1. *Quinceanera* Preparation: \$50.00
2. Church Active Member:
  - a. Uses collection envelopes and involved in any church ministry **No Cost**
  - b. Registered Parishioner: Uses collection envelopes **\$50.00**
  - c. Out of Parish: Not registered **\$100.00**
  - d. Out of Parish yet desires to join parish community **\$100.00**

### **People You May Need to Contact**

|            |                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor:    | Fr. Joseph T. Nguyen<br>Office: (361) 289-2759<br>E-mail: pastor@stpaultheapostlecc.com |
| Secretary: | Valerie Zaragoza<br>Office: (361) 289-2759<br>E-mail: secretary@sainttheresacc.org      |

Class Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptismal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Theresa Catholic Church

1302 Lantana St. Corpus Christi, Texas 78407

Phone: (361)289-2759 Fax: (361)442-2055

### Baptismal Registration Form

**Please provide the following with your completed application:**

1. Child's Birth Certificate
2. Proof of Parenthood, legal guardianship, and/ or legal adoption.
3. Baptismal, Holy Communion, Confirmation, & Marriage Certificates (if applicable) for Godparents
4. \$25 Donation for Baptism Preparation Classes Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Permission letter from Pastor of Non-parishioners baptizing in our parish.
6. Godparents Letter of Recommendation/ Approval from Pastor if not registered in Parish.

**Please provide the following information: (Print or Type all information clearly)**

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parent/ Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Godparent(s): #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**For Office Use Only:**

**Document Checklist:**

- Proof Parenthood/Guardianship: ☐
- Birth Certificate (Make Copy): ☐
- Baptismal Certificate (GP 1) ☐ (GP 2) ☐
- Holy Communion Certificate (GP 1) ☐ (GP 2) ☐
- Confirmation Certificate (GP 1) ☐ (GP 2) ☐
- Marriage Certificate (GP 1) ☐ (GP 2) ☐
- Baptismal Class Certificate (GP) & Date of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ (GP 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- Baptismal Class Certificate (P) & Date of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ (P 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- Permission Letter ☐ (Non-Parishioners from #5 above.)

This form was completed and reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FORM FOR QUINCEANERA

### Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Tentative date/time of Quinceanera \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City/State Zip

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Father's work # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's work # \_\_\_\_\_

Honoree's date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Honoree's place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Country

Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Maiden Last

Father's religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you married? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were not married in the Catholic Church would you consider arranging for a  
Convalidation? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no. If yes, please contact our pastor.

Godfather's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Is the Godfather a practicing Catholic? \_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is he confirmed? \_\_\_\_ If married, is he married in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Godmother's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Is the Godmother a practicing Catholic? \_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is she confirmed? \_\_\_\_ If married, is she married in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

If the Godparents can't be present, they may be represented by proxy. Is there a proxy? \_\_\_\_

Name of proxy? \_\_\_\_\_

Is one Godparent practicing in another faith? \_\_\_\_ Which faith? \_\_\_\_\_

He/she would be considered a Witness \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Parents \_\_\_\_ & Godparents \_\_\_\_ attended Quinceanera class at Saint Theresa on \_\_\_\_

Actual date the honoree was baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Priest or Deacon \_\_\_\_\_