



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

1502 Sara Road S.E. Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124 505-892-1511

Requirements for Infant Baptism

1. Parents should make arrangements at the parish office to have their child baptized as soon as possible. Child's name **must** include at least one Saint's name.
2. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptism instruction class – if one has not been taken within the last three years.
3. Baptism instructions are offered on the **1st and 3rd Saturdays** of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Religious Education building located behind the church. Pre-registration is not necessary. Please bring a snack to share with 10-12 people. Please arrange for a babysitter if at all possible, you will be able to focus your attention and help others around you to participate more fully.
4. Godparents **MUST** be at least 16 years of age, be a **practicing Catholic** and be **confirmed**. Godparents must also complete and sign the attached Affidavit of Eligibility and have it signed and sealed at their parish.
5. The Sacrament of Baptism is administered every Sunday after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.
6. All the required paperwork is due in the parish office **on or before the Tuesday BEFORE** the Baptism.

CHECKLIST: Do you have ALL the paperwork completed?

Baptism Registration Form for child _____

Child's Birth certificate or paternity papers _____ (only if parents are **not** married)

Affidavits of Eligibility for Godfather _____ Godmother _____

Baptism instruction certificates: Parents _____ Godparents _____

Letter of permission from Pastor _____ (if not members of St. Thomas Aquinas)

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BAPTISM SPONSORS

Being a sponsor is an official responsibility in the Church. The Church, in the Code of Canon Law – the Universal Law of the Church – has established certain requirements.

The requirements are:

1. That the sponsor be a Baptized Catholic who has made First Communion and Confirmation.
2. Be practicing Catholics. At a minimum, this means that they normally go to Mass on days of obligation, and confess at least once a year and go to Communion at Easter time. Needless to say, people married outside the Catholic Church or who are living together without marriage cannot be sponsors.
3. Be at least 16 years old (the pastor can excuse from this requirement for a good reason).
4. Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children.
5. A child may have one sponsor of the same sex, or two sponsors, each of a different sex.

In our parish, the sponsor is asked to attend the pre-Baptismal class, unless they have attended within the last three years.

- If a sponsor is from another Catholic parish, they must bring permission from their pastor, stating that they fulfill the requirements of the Canon Law and their own parish.
- If the sponsors cannot be physically present for the baptism, proxies may stand in their place. There is no requirement concerning who is the proxy.
- A Protestant or Eastern Orthodox Christian may stand as a “CHRISTIAN WITNESS ONLY”, together with a Catholic Sponsor.

Baptism Registration Form

Date: _____ **Date of Baptism** _____

(Name of Child **as it appears on birth certificate**) _____

Baptismal "*Patron Saint*" Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
City State

(Father's Name: **as it appears on child's Birth Certificate**) Religion _____

Paternal Father's First Name Middle Last

(Mother's Name: **as it appears on child's Birth Certificate**) Religion _____

First Middle **Maiden Name**

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents Married? Yes _____ * if No _____ **Birth Certificate is needed** _____

In the Catholic Church? Yes _____ No _____ Civil _____ How long _____

Registered at St. Thomas Aquinas? Yes _____

No _____, * Letter of Permission from home Church to baptize at St. Thomas Aquinas

Godparents: *Must be a baptized member of the Catholic Church, at least 16 years of age, have made FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION. Are not married outside the Catholic Church, or cohabitating. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.*

Godfather: _____ Baptism Class in the last 3 years? Date _____

Registered Parish: _____
City State

Godmother: _____ Baptism Class in the last 3 years? Date _____

Registered Parish: _____
City State

Will either Godparent be represented by a Proxy? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes – Name of Proxy _____

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Affidavit of Eligibility for the Ministry of
Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor

I, _____
(Please print complete your name)

I Swear to Almighty God that:

- I am a baptized member of the Catholic Church
- I am at least 16 years old
- I have made my **First Holy Communion** and received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**
- I am not married outside of the Catholic Church, nor am I cohabitating (living outside of marriage with someone.)
- I normally attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter Season.
- I understand and accept the responsibilities which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I will assist his/her parents in their Christian duty, and will help this person, by example, word and action, to live as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church.

Signature of Sponsor

Date

Candidate Name for Baptism ☐ Confirmation ☐

Date of Sacrament: _____

This person is a member of this parish and has sworn that they fulfill the canonical requirements to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation.

Signature of Pastor / or Delegate

Date

Parish Name / Location

Parish Seal