



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?

Registration form for child _____

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 for parents _____ (only if not members of St. Thomas Aquinas)



Baptism Registration Form

Date of Baptism _____

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

Baptismal Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
City State

Father's Name (as it appears on child's birth certificate):

First Middle Last
Religion _____

Mother (as it appears on child's birth certificate):

First Middle Maiden Name
Religion _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registered Parishioner at STA Yes _____ No _____ Envelope # _____

Parents Married Yes _____ No _____ In the Catholic Church Yes _____ No _____

Sponsors: I am a baptized member of the Catholic Church. I am at least 16 years of age. I have made my FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION. I am not married outside the Catholic Church, nor cohabitating. I normally attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Godfather _____

Parish _____
City State

Godmother _____

Parish _____
City State

Is either Sponsor represented by a Proxy? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes - Name of Proxy _____

From the CODE OF CANON LAW

Can. 872

Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it.

Can. 873

Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed.

Can. 874

1. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:
 - A. Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;
 - B. Have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
 - C. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;
 - D. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared,
 - E. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized;
2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.

Can. 892

As far as possible a sponsor for one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.

Can. 893

1. To perform this role of sponsor, it is necessary that a person fulfill the conditions mentioned in Can 874.
2. It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation.

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.

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

I, _____
(Please print complete 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

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