

# YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM AT STM

We want the best for your baby and would like to make his/her baptism here at STM as joyful a family event as possible. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions which we hope will help you prepare for the Baptism of your child.

We invite you:

- to read the following,
- to fill out a baptism application & provide a copy of the child's birth certificate
- to schedule a date & time for your child's baptism

## ***1. "At what age should I baptize my baby?"***

The Catholic Church urges to have parents baptize their child as soon as possible. The date of baptism should depend on the willingness of the parents and the health of the child, for it is important that they are present.

Being firm in your faith is important in the baptism of your child because you will be giving this living faith to your child. Those who experience difficulties in their own faith should allow more time to rebuild a spiritual life of faith that will be passed on to your child.

## ***2. "My spouse is of a different faith and feels uncomfortable about baptism. How can we overcome these feelings?"***

Your spouse has a right to these feelings. Catholic parents may feel the same. There is no need to worry. The priest or deacon presiding will guide you and help you before and during the ceremony. A class about baptism will help to prepare you for this important day that should be a memorable and joyful family celebration. The church will not impose anything on you which you are not comfortable with. The role of the church is to help you in formatting a beautiful family.

## ***3. "If I am a single or divorced parent, will the Church refuse to baptize my child?"***

Your baby is an innocent and beautiful gift from God. God chose to put your child in a loving family. Because God wants you to raise your child in faith, the role of the church is to help the parent(s) in any way possible. The Church can and will help ensure that the child is raised in a healthy and happy environment and all in the Catholic faith.

## ***4. "If my baby was baptized because of illness at the hospital, can I re-baptize him/her in Church?"***

We believe in one baptism. Since we believe in one baptism, the Baptismal ceremony can only be performed once. The baptism could be continued in the Church with the anointing of Holy Oils and the appointment of godparents can be made. This ceremony becomes a thanksgiving for the safety of your child.

## ***5. "Can I choose a non-Catholic godparent for my child?"***

The role of godparents is to be role model in faith and to be an example of good life to the child. The Church asks that at least one godparent is a practicing Catholic to support the parents in their Catholic upbringing. A non-Catholic can act as a witness to the child's baptism but he or she should be living an exemplary life and be over 16 years of age.

## ***6. "What does it cost to baptize my child?"***

It is customary that the parents offer a donation to the church and to the priest. Given the current financial situation of churches and parishes like STM, we require a donation of a hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) to defray the costs of using the church. This donation is due upon submission of the baptism application, and to hold the date/time of your scheduled baptism. An offering to the priest/deacon is very much appreciated, which could be any amount you would like, you may give this to them the day of your baptism.

We hope this will ease whatever questions and concerns you may have had for this very important event. As a parish family, we welcome you and your child to our faith community, and we hope that together, we could nurture him/her and be present in your child's journey of faith. We wish you all the best!

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH  
1300 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132  
PH: (415) 452-9634 FX: (415) 452-9653 EMAIL: [INFO@STMCHURCH.COM](mailto:INFO@STMCHURCH.COM)  
[WWW.STMCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STMCHURCH.COM)