

HOLY BAPTISM

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS:

Except in emergencies, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism should be administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other major feast day. “Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints’ Day or the Sunday after All Saints’ Day, and on the Feast of Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany). It is recommended that, as far as possible, Baptisms be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present.” (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 312)

Each person to be baptized is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons, who are themselves practicing Christian believers who are active members of the Church. It is the required duty of the clergy to provide adequate pre-baptismal instruction to all sponsors, parents, and mature candidates.

In the baptism of infants and children, it is the Bishop’s expectation that at least one of the parents will be an active communicant member of the congregation where the baptism is to take place. In pastoral situations where this is not the case, the priest is to consult with the rector of the parish where the family belongs prior to proceeding. Active participation in the life of the Christian community is expected of all parties involved, both before and after the baptism.

ST. VINCENT’S CATHEDRAL REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to the above requirements from the Diocese of Fort Worth, St. Vincent’s Cathedral has requirements that go above and beyond those of the Diocese.

1. Parents of infant candidates are expected to be active members of the parish for at least 6 months prior to the baptism date. Minimum expectation to be considered ‘active members’ is to attend Mass on Sundays and other major Holy Days that may be celebrated during the week. If you are not going to be able to attend at St. Vincent’s on a given Sunday it is expected that you will find a parish where you can attend Mass. This is not meant to be a burden but instead is expected of all faithful Anglicans.
2. Concerning God-parents: Due to the fact that Anglicans have always upheld the importance of the Sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist, it is expected that the Godparents will be from a Christian tradition that also values the Sacraments of the Church. This is necessary when considering the promises they will be making on behalf of the infant who is to be baptized. Therefore at least one but preferably two of the God-parents should be baptized and confirmed members of their own tradition whether that is Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic or other sacrament oriented tradition. Any God-parents not meeting these requirements must at least be baptized Christians who are active in their own faith.
3. Sponsors of adult candidates would be properly be an active member of St. Vincent’s Cathedral.
4. Instruction in the Christian Faith is an ancient custom of the Church for those seeking baptism. It is therefore expected that all adult candidates for baptism and parents and God-parents of infant candidates will attend whatever instructional classes designed by the priests of the Cathedral. Not to do so may result in the refusal of Baptism.

ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH

BAPTISM INFORMATION FORM

Date: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth: ___/___/_____ Place of Birth: _____
(City) (State)

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone #: _____ Office/Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Name of Godparents:

