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**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
**PREPARATION & PROCESS**

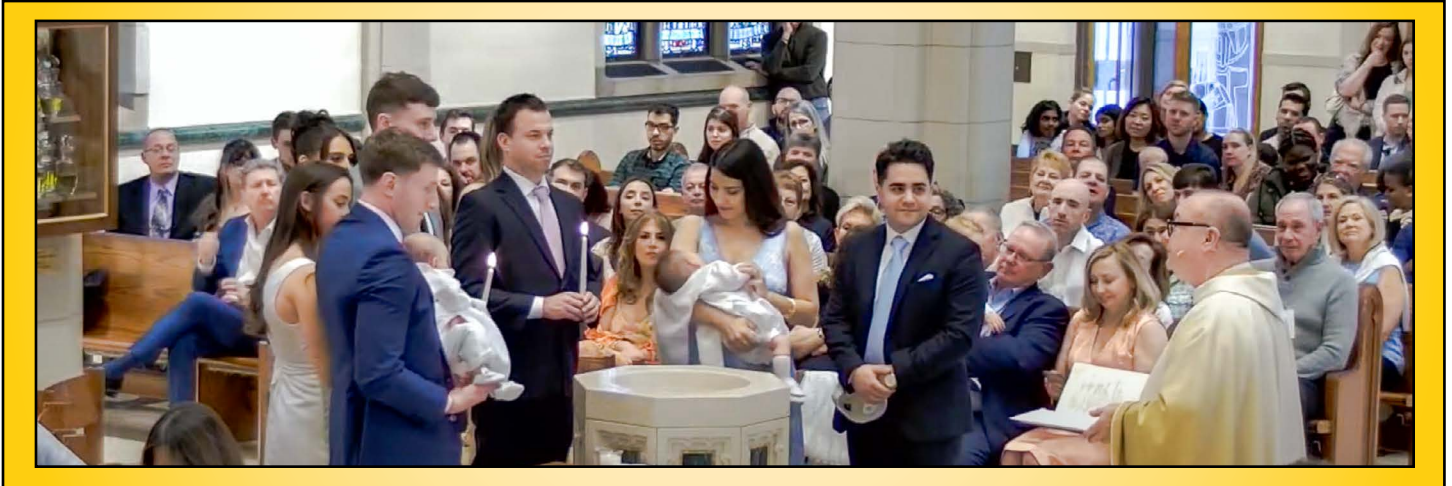
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**SAINT TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH**  
306 Morris Avenue | Summit  
Phone (908) 277-3700  
Fax (908) 273-5909

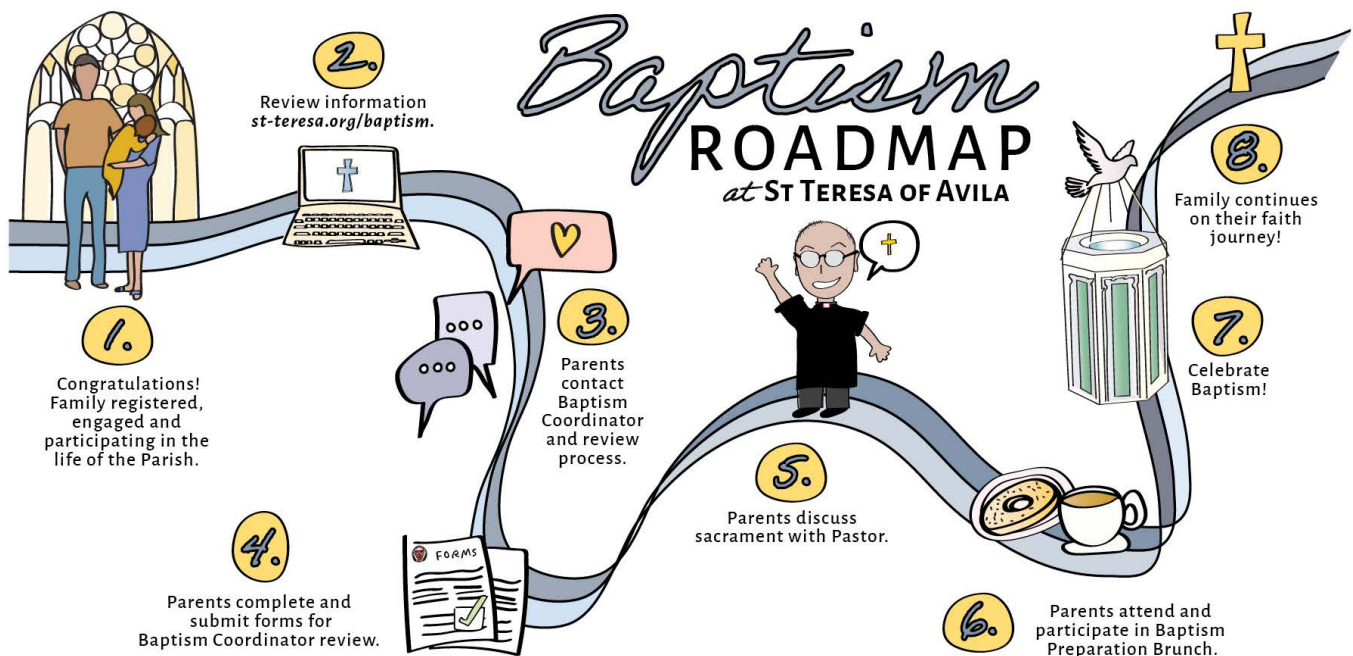


**BAPTISM COORDINATOR:**  
**VICTORIA RICELLI** | [victoriar@stteresaavila.org](mailto:victoriar@stteresaavila.org)  
Pastoral Associate for Youth & Adult Ministry

# BAPTISM *at* ST TERESA OF AVILA



*Loving God, May our children come to know You. May Your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear Your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim Your word. May their hearts be Your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. Amen.*





Requesting that your baby be baptized here is about your family being a part of our parish family.

It's not just a one time event, but the gateway to the rest of the Sacraments of the Church, and as such, ensuring that families are properly disposed to introduce their child(ren) to a sacramental life is essential. In particular,

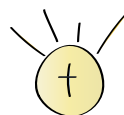
parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptized here are registered, regularly attend and participate, and actively support (either with Envelopes or Online Giving) the parish in order to schedule a Baptismal date. (Anonymous contributions are not verifiable.) Parents will meet with Father Bob before a date can be confirmed. This meeting is for all families who wish to receive the Sacrament.

We recommend that parents who wish to have their child baptized contact us soon after the birth of their child. To schedule a date for Baptism and/or request to have Baptism celebrated elsewhere, please see the checklist and scheduling information below. Dates are only confirmed once all documents are submitted and all requirements are met.

Parents wishing to have their child baptized or are requesting a letter of permission to have your child baptized at another church must be...



...registered as parishioners



...regularly attending Mass



...supporting the parish for at least (3) months

## CHECKLIST



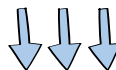
Download and complete the **Baptism Request Form** (via [st-teresa.org/forms](http://st-teresa.org/forms))



Complete **Sponsor Letter** with Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation certificates as attachments.



Attain a copy of the **child's birth certificate**.



**PLEASE SEND ALL 3 OF THE ABOVE ITEMS TO ST TERESA OF AVILA**

- BY MAIL  
- DROP OFF THE TO THE PARISH OFFICE

These items are necessary prior to scheduling a meeting.



## SCHEDULING

- Once all of the necessary documents are submitted, the Parish will contact the child(ren)'s parents to schedule a meeting with Fr Bob.
- After all of the prerequisites are satisfied, the date of the sacrament will be discussed. **(Please do not make any definite reservations until you have received confirmation from the Parish of the baptismal date.)**
- Keep in mind that baptisms are not scheduled during Advent and Lent.
- To maintain courtesy and decorum in our sacred space, outside professional photographers are not permitted during Saturday and Sunday liturgies. Families celebrating a child's baptism are welcome to take camera/phone photos.



# GODPARENTS

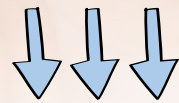
The Sacrament of Baptism requires at least one sponsor (or godparent) for each baptized person. If electing to have two godparents, they must be male and female and provide proof of the following:

- 1.** Submit a copy of sponsor's license.
- 2.** Submit certificates for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.
- 3.** Complete Sponsor Letter for Baptism.
- 4.** Live a life in harmony with the Church.
- 5.** Regularly attend Mass and support their Parish.

Without a sponsor certificate, the second person will be considered a "witness."

Still not sure who to choose as a godparent?

Find more guidance here.



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

Can we choose our own date for a private ceremony?

By their very nature, Baptisms are "communal" celebrations. At St Teresa of Avila there are two options for choosing a Baptism date: a Saturday or Sunday mass.

Can we bring in an outside priest? If so, what's the process?

Families are very welcome to invite a priest in good standing to celebrate the Baptism of their child. The priest is required to provide certification of his good standing from his bishop or religious superior. The rest of the Baptism policy applies.

Do we need to bring anything specific on the date of the Baptism?

Families are requested to be in the Church at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the ceremony. Families should bring any items that can help their child be comfortable during the ceremony (ie bottles, pacifiers, etc).

Is the church handicap accessible for those with mobility issues?

Yes, there are handicap accessible entrances to the church and Memorial Hall.

Are family and friends permitted to take pictures during the ceremony?

Family and friends are welcome to take photos but we ask that guests remain in their seats in order to do so. They may not walk up the aisles, nor may they stand in the sanctuary. During the baptism with water, family members are invited to gather at the baptismal font to be close and present for that special moment. Photos may also be taken then.



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### Questions about our Baptism Process?

Contact our Baptism Coordinator:

**VICTORIA RICCELLI**  
Pastoral Associate for Youth & Adult Ministry  
[victoriar@stteresavila.org](mailto:victoriar@stteresavila.org)



**QUESTIONS OF INTENT:**

the acknowledgment of the parents from their hearts that they are presenting their child to be a new member of the church



**SIGNING WITH THE CROSS:**

a symbol of acceptance into the universal church and into the family of believers through the action of the priest then repeated by each member of the family



**ANOINTING WITH THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS:**

a sign of God's strength for the child/adult to grow in their faith and belief



**PROFESSION OF FAITH:**

renewal of baptismal promises and responsibilities to raise the child being baptized in the faith



**BAPTISM WITH WATER:**

a symbol of divine life, purity, and cleansing of sin in the name of the father, son, and holy spirit



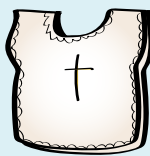
**ANOINTING WITH CHRISM:**

a symbol that invites the family and newly baptized to accompany others in the faith



**LIGHTING THE CANDLE:**

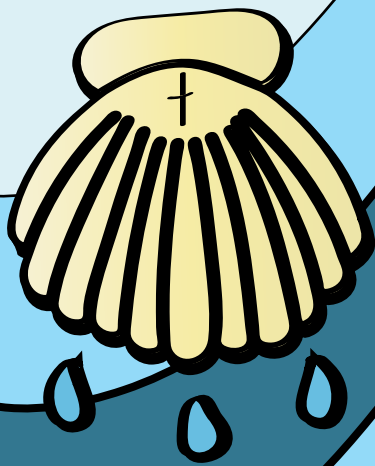
a symbol of the light of Christ each person carries throughout their life



**WHITE GARMENT:**

a garment that stands for new life in Christ and a connection to the white pall used at funerals

# Rites & Symbols...



# RESOURCES

Check out a few of our favorite Catholic resources that dive into the Sacrament, Godparents, and more! Click the play button if you are viewing this digitally, or scan the QR code to access the resources!

## The Role of Godparents

Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, NZ



## Baptism Explained Rite of Baptism

Sophia Institute for Teachers



## Rooted in Baptism

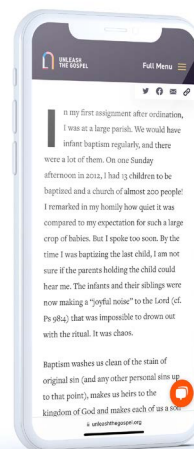
Fr. Stephen Pullis  
February 11, 2020

Via [unleashthegospel.org](http://unleashthegospel.org)



Click [here](#) to read.

**"BY VIRTUE OF OUR BAPTISM, GOD IS CLOSER TO US THAN WE ARE TO OURSELVES."**



# THE JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES...



(CHILDREN IN GRADES K-1 AND THEIR PARENTS)

An introduction to our rich faith to experience as a family.

## ENCOUNTER

2ND TO 4TH GRADERS

A moving, preparative encounter with Jesus' unending love for you in the Eucharist.



3RD TO 5TH-GRADERS

Take a journey with friends to learn more about our faith.

## EDGE

6TH TO 8TH-GRADERS

At the edge of your journey, ask and seek the questions to help you grow deeper.



9TH TO 12TH-GRADERS

Discover the purpose that God has for you as you prepare to be confirmed to who you're meant to be.



9TH TO 12TH-GRADERS

Make a decision and take a stand to be and live as an active disciple.

