

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church

We are delighted to be a part of bringing you or your child deeper into the Catholic Faith!

In order to honor your time, and to alleviate concerns about parents and godparents needing to be at the same time and place for a training, which can be cumbersome with meeting the schedules of both parents and both Godparents, we have adopted using the **REBORN** teaching series online, which is a subdivision of www.Formed.org. If you do not have access to the internet, you may also arrange to watch these videos at the Church.



First, each of you will need to go to www.Formed.org, click on “Sign up,” then click on “I belong to a parish or organization.” Type in our zip code, which is **78255**, and look for **Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio, Texas** and click on it when it is listed. Type in your name and email address and click “next.” They may direct you to your email to verify the account, or it may just then give you access to the website.

Once you login, click the tab at the top marked “**PROGRAMS**”, and a dropdown menu will appear. Click “**THE SACRAMENTS**.” The program for Baptismal Preparation is called “**REBORN**.”

In this section are six videos, and we only require that you watch the first three, which are:

1. **A New Creation (40 minutes)**
2. **Entering the Mystery (25 Minutes)**
3. **Nurturing the Life of Grace (26 Minutes)**

There is a bonus video on the role of a Godparent, which is optional, but recommended for Godparents.

- You may choose to watch these together and then answer the questions below as a family, or watch them separately and answer them individually.
- Each Godparent must answer individually, unless they are married to one another. Godparents, please remember to list the name of the child/adult you are sponsoring along with your questions.
- This program must be completed if you have not been through it in the last 3 years. Parents and Godparents who have been through this in the last 3 years may be asked to only re-watch Session 3, and answer the questions.
- **Once you have answered all three sections, mail or email your responses to:**
Our Lady of the Atonement + 15415 Red Robin Road + San Antonio, TX 78255 or
Email: elizama@atonementonline.com

Please get these to us **no later than a week (7 days) before the Baptism is to take place** so that we have time to produce certificates and prepare for the Baptism. Note that our offices are only open Monday-Friday.

- **There is a \$25 stipend fee payable to the Church**, which covers all training materials and resources (certificates, baptismal candles, etc.). It is not required that you pay the Priest or Deacon, but if you would like to offer them an honorarium/donation in thanksgiving for their service, that is entirely up to you.

Note: This paperwork is for those children under the age of 7 who need baptism. After the age of 7, they must also be Confirmed, which is an entirely different process. Please contact the office for those over the age of seven, or see separate protocol on our website for the Confirmation of Children.

SESSION 2: ENTERING THE MYSTERY: THE RITE EXPLAINED

Once you watch the Session 2: “Entering the Mystery: the Rite Explained,” please answer the following questions:

1. Making choices:
 - a. What are some choices you have made for your child (or that you have observed the parents making for their children)?

 - b. What would be the potential consequences of delaying these decisions until the child is old enough to make those decisions for him/herself?

 - c. Why do you think it is important for you to choose baptism for your child (or to support the parents in choosing for their child)?

 - d. What are some of the reasons you are choosing Baptism for your child or godchild?

2. Baptism brings us into the family of God, the Church. This means so much more than just being welcomed into the local parish. The family of God stretches across time and culture.
 - a. What does it mean to you to be a part of the family of God?

 - b. How will you help your child or godchild to understand and live out his/her identity as a part of the family of God?

(more on next page)

3. The Catechism states: “incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible mark (character) of his belonging to Christ.” (CCD 1272) This indelible seal marks us as belonging to God, and nothing can change or erase the seal of Baptism.

a. What does it mean to be marked as belonging to Christ?

b. Why is it important to you that your child or godchild be marked by this seal now?

SESSION 3: NURTURING THE LIFE OF GRACE

Once you watch the “Nurturing the Life of Grace,” please answer the following questions:

1. Community
 - a. Why is the Christian faith to be lived out in community?

 - b. What effect has the community of faith had on you?

2. Priest, Prophet and King
 - a. Which aspect of the threefold mission of Priest, Prophet, and King do you think is easiest to live out, and why?

 - b. Which is the hardest, and why?

3. Concerning Godparents (Parents answer A, Godparents answer B)
 - a. (Parents only) Considering your godparents, how have they impacted your faith and how do you see them impacting the faith of your child? Do they know why you have chosen them?

 - b. (Godparents Only) How do you see your role in having an impact on the life of this person you are committing to help become a strong Christian individual?

4. Baptism reminds us that we too were once baptized, and someone made these commitments for us, and may or may not have helped us along the way. How can we re-shape our own lives now to be a better model and example of the Christian life and faith to this new Christian?

BAPTISM REQUEST FORM

All paperwork and classwork is due one week (7 days) prior to the Baptism

Child to be Baptized: Sex: *(Circle one)* Male Female

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Date of Birth ____/____/____ City & State _____

Adult Natural Child of the following parents Adopted Child

Mother: *(Full legal name—please print)*

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Maiden Name of the Mother _____

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Preferred Phone (_____) _____ Email: _____

Father: *(Full legal name—please print)*

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Preferred Phone (_____) _____ Email: _____

Baptism Details

Requested Dates (list up to 3) [Note: Baptisms do not normally take place in Advent or Lent]

____/____/____ ____/____/____ ____/____/____

Clergy Preference (if any) _____ No Preference

(Note: Deacons are also capable of performing baptisms in the Catholic Church)

Can the Child's Name be published in the bulletin? Yes or No

Can pictures be posted to Social Media (Facebook, etc)? Yes or No

Time

Saturday 10am

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 12:30pm

Other (explain) _____

After classwork is complete, you will be officially scheduled and should expect to be inside the Baptistry (room to the left as you enter the main church narthex/lobby) no less than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled baptism.

Please inform all family that the highway nearest our location is bad for traffic even on the best of days, so make enough time to not only arrive on campus at the prescribed time, but to actually be in the room 15 minutes prior to the scheduled baptism.

Sponsors, sometimes commonly called: “Godparents”

The Code of Canon Law (cc. 872-874) enlists the following requirements for those to be admitted as Sponsors or “Godparents” for a sacrament:

- ❖ Only one male, or one female sponsor, or one of each sex is to be employed. [Canon 873]
- ❖ To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must: [Canon 874]
 - 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;
 - have completed the 16th year (age 16), unless a different date has been established by the diocesan Bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for just cause;
 - 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;
 - not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
 - not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

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.

Summary: At least one Catholic Godparent is necessary. A single non-Catholic may be used as a secondary witness, but not in the place of a Catholic godparent.

Please don't leave anything blank. First Sponsor MUST be a Confirmed Catholic.

Sponsor 1 _____

(First, Middle, Last Name, *include Maiden Name if applicable*)

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Confirmation Date _____

Name of Catholic Parish where you were Confirmed _____

City, State _____ Phone _____

Sponsor 2 _____

(First, Middle, Last Name, *include Maiden Name if applicable*)

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Catholic: Confirmation Date _____

Catholic Parish where you were Confirmed _____

City, State _____ Phone _____

Non-Catholic “Christian Witness” (Must be baptized)

Name of Parish and Denomination _____

City and State of Parish _____