

St. Thomas Indian Mission Catholic Church Requirements for Baptism

The day of Baptism is a day to celebrate! For the child, Baptism is the day the Lord has made, a day of new life and grace, a day of sharing in the life of Jesus. For the parent/s, the godparent/s, the whole family and the Christian community as a whole, it is a day of promise and faith, a day to celebrate our Christian heritage. Baptism is a celebration of our faith.

In order to have a child baptized at St. Thomas Indian Mission Catholic Church, parents must fulfill the following requirements.

1. A completed baptism form (Form B-1) to be submitted by parent(s) or legal guardian;
2. A copy of the child's birth certificate;
3. The child must be under the age of 7, if 7 years old or older, the child must first participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (catechism classes) for two years;
4. The parents' residence must be within the geographic boundaries of St. Thomas Indian Mission Parish and must be registered as contributing members of the parish.
 - a. If the parents are not registered, they are required to register;
 - b. If the parents are registered in another parish, they are required to provide a letter from their parish priest that states that permission is granted to have their child baptized at St. Thomas Indian Mission Church.
5. Considered parishioners of St. Thomas Indian Mission are those who live within the geographical boundaries of Winterhaven as well as those who may not be living within the geographical boundaries of Winterhaven but are regularly attending Mass here and are registered as regularly contributing members.
6. The godparents must have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, and must be in good moral character, living a life of faith;
7. One godparent (male/female) is sufficient, but there may be two, one of each sex (ref Canon Law # 873-874)
8. Godparents that live with partners as a couple **must be** married in the catholic church;
9. Godparents **must be** at least 16 years of age;
10. Godparents **must be** able to receive Holy Communion;
11. Godparents that belong to a different parish are required to complete Form B-2;
12. **If the parents of the child to be baptized are not married in the Catholic Church or if the parent is a single mother or single father, the godparents of the child must be a couple married in the Catholic Church.**
13. The parents and godparents are required to participate in a pre-baptismal class.
14. Once the parents have prepared the above requirements, they present them to the Pastor (Fr. George) for approval and, once approved, to arrange for their pre-baptismal class, and, consequently, the date for the baptism.