



Emergency Baptism Policy

The proper place for baptism is a church or oratory; however, in a case of urgent necessity or some other compelling pastoral reason, Baptism may be celebrated in a hospital, institutional setting, or other location of emergency. In these emergency situations, when a Catholic priest administers Baptism in danger of death, it is expected that he will administer Confirmation also.¹ When a priest is not available for an emergency Baptism, a deacon or properly catechized layperson should be sent immediately. A priest can later administer Confirmation if warranted.

An infant in danger of death is to be baptized without delay. An adult in danger of death can be baptized if, having some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith, the person has manifested in any way at all the intention to receive baptism and promises to observe the commandments of the Christian religion.

If baptism is administered neither by the pastor nor in his presence, the minister of baptism, whoever it is, must inform the pastor of the parish in whose territory the baptism was administered.

All emergency baptisms are to be recorded in the sacramental register for Baptism of the territorial parish in which the Baptism took place. The pastor must carefully and without delay record in the baptismal book the names of those baptized making mention of the minister, parents, sponsors, witnesses if any and the place and date of the conferred baptism, together with an indication of the date and place of birth. If Confirmation was also administered it is recorded along with the Baptism in the territorial parish.

In order to ensure the accurate recording of emergency baptisms within the Archdiocese of San Antonio, a uniform document will be used to notify the proper pastor in the event of an emergency Baptism (and Confirmation, when appropriate). This document will be titled: "Notice of Emergency Baptism" and will be the preferred method of notifying the pastor of the territorial parish of an emergency Baptism.

The "Notice of Emergency Baptism" form will be completed by the minister of baptism as soon as possible after Baptism is administered. The minister of Baptism is responsible for submitting the notice to the territorial parish in which the hospital or institution is located.

¹ When a priest is called to administer Baptism in danger of death, the Code of Canon Law indicates that he should proceed with emergency Confirmation as well, unless, as an exception, prudence would indicate, perhaps in consultation with the parents, that the infant likely will survive, and Confirmation can be delayed until the usual age of Confirmation. Any baptized Catholic not yet confirmed, who is in danger of death, should receive emergency Confirmation.



An emergency Baptism of a child under the age of seven is to be followed by the Rite of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church (Chapter VI of the 2020 Order of Baptism of Children), in the parish church proper to the child's parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise. If ceremonies are supplied at a later date, the parish where the ceremonies are supplied should notify the parish that holds the baptismal record so that a notation regarding these ceremonies can be made in the person's baptismal record.

Following the norm of law, Catholic hospitals and other Catholic institutions are not responsible for maintaining a sacramental register for Baptism or other sacraments that take place in their facilities. It is the responsibility of the pastor of the place where the baptism is celebrated to record in the parish baptismal book the information required by law. Catholic hospitals and other Catholic institutions do not have the authority to issue sacramental certificates intended to establish reception of a Sacrament.

Catholic hospitals and other Catholic institutions that currently maintain or store a sacramental register for Catholic baptisms or other Catholic sacraments will deposit those registers with the Archives and Records Management Office of the Archdiocese of San Antonio for preservation and storage.

If you have questions, please contact either the Department for Pastoral Ministries, the Judicial Vicar, or the Office of the Chancellor at 210-734-2620 or archsa.org.



Notice of Emergency Baptism

This "Notice of Emergency Baptism" form will be completed by the minister of baptism as soon as possible after Baptism is administered. The minister of Baptism is responsible for submitting the notice to the territorial parish in which the hospital or institution is located.

Hospital or Institution Name: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Name of Baptized: _____

Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year): _____

Born in City, State: _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Printed Name of Minister of Baptism: _____

Was the Baptism administered according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church?:

Yes: _____ No: _____

Was an Emergency Confirmation administered by a Catholic Priest?: Yes: _____ No: _____

Permanent Address of the Baptized (Parents if the Baptized is a child): _____

Telephone Number (Parents if the Baptized is a child): _____

Email address: _____

Name(s) of Catholic Sponsor(s) (Godparents): _____

The release of this information to the parish is authorized by: _____

Relation to patient: _____ Date: _____

Authorization Recieved: In person: _____ By phone: _____

Territorial Parish: _____

Notes: _____



Partial list of institutions in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the proper parish for sacramental recording:

Hospitals:

Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center, STVHCS, San Antonio – St. Luke, San Antonio
Baptist Medical Center (downtown) – St. Mary’s (downtown), San Antonio
Brooke Army Medical Center (SAMMC), San Antonio – St. Thomas More, San Antonio
Children’s Hospital of San Antonio-Downtown – San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio
Children’s Hospital of San Antonio-Alamo Ranch – St. Anthony Mary Claret, San Antonio
CHRISTUS San Rosa –Westover Hills – Mary, Mother of the Church, San Antonio
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa – New Braunfels – Sts. Peter & Paul, New Braunfels
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Alamo Heights – St. Anthony de Padua, Alamo Heights
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa – Medical Center – St. Luke, San Antonio
Connally Memorial Medical Center, Floresville – Sacred Heart, Floresville
Frio Regional Hospital, Pearsall – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pearsall
Gonzales Memorial Hospital, Gonzales – St. James, Gonzales
Guadalupe Regional Medical Center, Seguin – St. James, Seguin
Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Fredericksburg – St. Mary, Fredericksburg
Hondo Regional Hospital, Hondo – St. John the Evangelist, Hondo
Kindred Hospital, San Antonio – St. Matthew, San Antonio
Methodist Hospital, Boerne – St. Peter the Apostle, Boerne
Methodist Hospital – Medical Center, San Antonio – St. Luke, San Antonio
Methodist Metropolitan Hospital (downtown) – St. Mary’s (downtown), San Antonio
Methodist Hospital North East – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Selma
Methodist Hospital – Stone Oak – Holy Trinity, San Antonio
Methodist Hospital South, Jourdanton – St. Matthew, Jourdanton
Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital – Medical Center, San Antonio - St. Luke, San Antonio



Methodist Texsan Hospital, San Antonio – St. Gregory the Great, San Antonio

Mission Trail Baptist – San Juan Capistrano, San Antonio

North Central Baptist Hospital, San Antonio – Holy Trinity, San Antonio

North East Baptist Hospital – St. Pius X, San Antonio

Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital, Kenedy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Kenedy

Peterson Regional Medical Center, Kerrville – Notre Dame, Kerrville

San Antonio State Hospital/Texas Health and Human Services – St. Margaret Mary, San Antonio

St. Luke's Baptist Hospital – Medical Center, San Antonio – St. Luke, San Antonio

University Hospital, San Antonio – St. Luke, San Antonio

Uvalde Memorial Hospital, Uvalde – Sacred Heart, Uvalde

Val Verde Regional Medical Center, Del Rio – Sacred Heart, Del Rio

Texas Department of Corrections:

John B. Connally Unit – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Kenedy

Dolph Briscoe Unit – St Joseph Catholic Church, Dilley

Fabian Dale Dominguez Unit – Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Macdona

Joe Ney Unit – St John the Evangelist, Hondo

Ruben M. Torres Unit – St John the Evangelist, Hondo