

## St. Francis of Assisi Church

114 Mt. Vernon Street, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660  
201-641-6464

### PARENT INFORMATION IN PREPARATION FOR INFANT BAPTISM

Dear Parents and Godparents:

The Church's sacrament of Baptism is more than simply a ritual (or rite) of initiation. It is a beautiful and meaningful celebration in which the Church formally acknowledges that your child is a part of God's special family.

You, as parents already know this. You are presenting your child for Baptism because of your own faith. Certainly, you want God to be a part of your child's life, just as God has been present in your lives. Your child is a physical, emotional, and spiritual proof of your love as a couple. God brought the two of you together in love and now you, as a couple are starting a new phase in your journey.

We encourage you, as parents, to pray with your children, to teach them about God as they grow, and remind them often that they are loved and blessed by God. Please know that you are always welcome and encouraged to make Saint Francis your spiritual home and attend Mass and other events that are available.

Remember, you are the most important teachers of your children in their faith. No one can give them that blessing and that sense of belonging more than you.

Attached is a simple outline of the particulars of the Baptism ceremony. If there are any additional questions, you are welcome to call Sally at 201-641-6464.

Fr. Bartley Baker  
Parochial Vicar

# RITE OF BAPTISM

## Naming of Your Child

You have given your child a name, a name which is special and sets him/her apart as an individual. Your child is a unique and special gift from God, to be loved nurtured and protected. At the beginning of the Baptism ceremony, you will be asked to give the name of your child verbally so that all may hear.

You will then be asked by the priest what you ask of the Church for your child. The answer is simply "Baptism." Parents and Godparents will then be asked a question regarding your readiness to fulfill your spiritual obligations (i.e. raising him/her in the Catholic faith through your life, prayer, and good example.)

## Sealing with the Sign of the Cross

Parents and Godparents will then be asked to make the sign the cross on the child's forehead after the priest has done so. That special action is meant to symbolize the cross of Christ by which we are sealed and become God's own.

## Anointing with Oil

The child is first anointed with the oil of baptism and next with the oil of chrism. Through baptism, your child is sent forth into the world as a special creation of God- to grow in faith- to battle against temptation and evil and, as he/she grows, to be aware of God's presence and guidance on their journey. These anointings are meant to remind all of us that God's love and strength are with us always.

Oil has been used in the past as medicine (healing), by athletes before competition (strength) and as a source of artificial light. So, the oils are symbolic of the Lord's healing, strength and light in your child's life.

## Profession of Faith

We are familiar with the "Creed" (our Profession of Faith) which we say during Sunday Mass. During the baptismal ceremony, everyone who is baptized is asked to renew the vows of their own baptism in the form of questions. When we say "I do", it is our affirmative response to what we truly believe as Catholics. This is important. You cannot, as parents and godparents, promise to bring the child up in the faith without reminding yourselves what it is that you believe.

We are pulled in many different directions: at home, at work, with family and friends, and in the different decisions we are forced to make. Because of this, it is good to remind ourselves of the essence of our faith- our spiritual life and well- being.

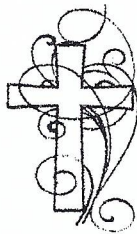
## The Pouring of the Water

The families (one at a time) will be invited to approach the baptismal font. Parents and godparents need to be at the font, however, if there are other children in your family, they may be invited up as well. This makes them feel that they are a part of this special event.

## The Lord's Prayer and Final Blessing

After praying the Lord's Prayer together, the parents and their child will be invited by the priest to come forward for a special blessing.





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### A Special Message for the Selection of Godparents for Baptism

Dear Parents,

Peace!

Congratulations on the birth of your child. You have received God's most beautiful gift that is your child, a living expression of love. As you plan to have your child receive the Sacrament of Baptism we trust this message may assist you in selecting godparents that will fulfill your wishes to raise your child in the Catholic faith. The honor and privilege of being chosen as godparents are reserved for very special Catholics who will bear the responsibility along with parents to be good role models active in their faith.

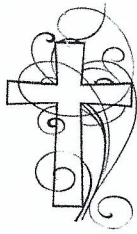
In accepting the role of sacramental sponsorship a godparent acknowledges that they are committed and active Catholic and will support the parents and the godchild in the Sacrament of Baptism in the practice of their Catholic faith through prayer and personal example. Chosen godparents must meet the following requirements to order to assist you in raising your child spiritually.

- They must be at least 16 years of age
- They must be registered members of the Catholic Church having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
- If married, their marriage was blessed by the Catholic Church
- They must be practicing Catholics who attend Mass regularly, and received the sacraments of the Church
- They must affirm their commitment by completing the final requirement which is the Sponsor Qualification Form and have it validated at their parish. This form is to ensure that the godparents are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

You will be selecting a godfather and a godmother for your child's Baptism. At least one of the godparents must be a fully initiated Catholic in good standing with the Church who meets all of the above requirements; the second godparent may be a baptized person or a person who belongs to a non-catholic church. The function of the godparent is to assist the parents in fostering the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church, therefore a person who does not meet the mandatory requirements cannot be a godparent, but may serve as a witness at your child's Baptism. Only the name of the fully initiated Catholic godparent appears on the Certificate of Baptism; therefore the name of a witness, if selected, cannot be recorded on the Certificate of Baptism.

As parents, your faith will guide you in selecting godparents for your child. We wish you well in choosing godparents worthy of this honor.

Rev. Larry Evans II  
Pastor



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## Sacrament of Baptism Request Form

Baptism Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT

Full Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City & State)

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code)

Phone No. (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR /GODPARENT INFORMATION

Godfather's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Godmother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Have parents attended a Baptism Preparation Class in the past?  Yes  No If Yes, Indicate Year \_\_\_\_\_

You are registered to attend a Baptism Preparation Class at 7:00 pm on Tuesday/Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_  
at the Parish Center, 125 Park Street, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

### PARISHIONER INFORMATION

Are you a registered parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church?  Yes  No

I would like to become a member of St. Francis Parish, please send a Parishioner Registration Form.  Yes  No

*For Parish Use Only* Emergency Baptism: Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation Complete  Certificate of Baptism Issued  Recorded in Baptism Register  Offering \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ /Cash Date \_\_\_\_\_





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## Sacramental Sponsor Form

Baptism

Confirmation

RCIA

Please PRINT

Full Name of individual receiving the Sacrament of Baptism or candidate receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation

\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Godparent/Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of the Godparent/Sponsor

In accepting the role of sacramental sponsorship I acknowledge that I must be a model and example of a committed and active Catholic and a support to the parents of the individual for the Sacrament of Baptism and/or Confirmation in the practice of our Catholic faith through prayer and personal example.

- I am at least 16 years of age
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- If married, my marriage was blessed by the Catholic Church
- I am a practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly, and received the sacraments of the Church

I hereby assure that I am committed to my Catholic faith, by my witness to the values taught by the Church and expressed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and by ways I seek to serve others out of love for Christ.

Signature of Godparent or Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Priest

(This section to be completed by the Godparent/Sponsor Parish)

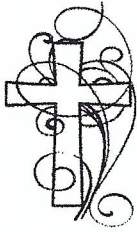
This will verify that the above-named is an active member of this parish, and is, to the best of my knowledge, initiated in the sacraments of the Church, is faithful in attending Sunday Mass and in the practice of the Catholic Faith, and is able to accept the responsibility of Sacramental Sponsor.

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Priest or Deacon \_\_\_\_\_

(Parish Seal)



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