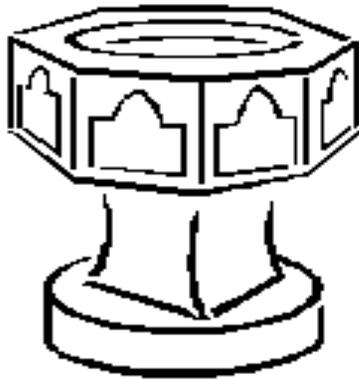


THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Begins a
JOURNEY OF FAITH
Which will continue throughout
the life of your child.

When you bring your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, you will be asked three questions:

1. What name do you give your child?
2. What do you ask of God's church for your child?
3. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

We are attempting with this Booklet to assist you in answering these questions.

We ask that you read it, think about the contents of it, and talk it over with your spouse and other significant adults who will take part in the baptism and the life of your child.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact the Church at 410-433-2300.



BAPTISM

Baptism is the first of the Sacraments. It is a response to the call from Christ to be a member of His body, the Church. In receiving the sacrament of Baptism, your child begins the process of initiation into the Christian community.

As a member of this community, your child will not only have certain rights:

- A right to the other Sacraments
- A right to salvation
- A right to caring from other members
- A right to be involved in the mission and ministry of the Church

But also certain responsibilities:

- To continue education in the faith
- To live and act so that it is clear to everyone that he/she is a baptized Catholic
- To be a witness to others of the love of Jesus
- To continue an active, prayerful membership in the Church.

When you bring your child to be baptized, you assume these responsibilities for him/her until the child is old enough to be aware of them for him/herself.

BAPTISM

Baptism, therefore is not to be asked for without thought, prayer, and a resolution to do for the child what it is hoped your child will continue to do as he/she grows older.

Your child will have you as a model in the journey of faith toward a loving God. You will speak the Baptismal promises and prayers not for the child but with the child.

The Baptism of a child must have a profound effect on the adults who request it - or who are in any way involved in the celebration of the sacrament.

It is the point at which the parents must look at their own faith, must see to which conversions in both their spiritual and community lives they must attend; in order to be a model for this person whose well-being has been entrusted to them.

It is the point at which other adults must become aware of the impact of their lives upon the life of this new person whom they have been asked to influence spiritually.

Think about what is written here before you ask for Baptism.

Be willing to become for your child a model of a good Christian.

Be willing to create for your child a Christian home where love and service are the hallmarks of a follower of Christ.

SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

There are certain directives given by the Archdiocese for administering the Sacrament of Baptism:

PARISH: Since Baptism marks the entrance of a child into the Christian Community, children should be baptized in the parish where the parents are members or are currently worshipping. A request for baptism from someone outside the parish should be accompanied by a letter from the Pastor of that parish.

PREPARATION: Parents, and if possible godparents, are required to attend a preparation class.

GODPARENTS: The role of the godparent (s) is to share their own faith with the child. They should be a constant aid in the ongoing Christian formation of the child. Therefore, at least **ONE of the godparents must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic and be of an age to undertake this responsibility (at least 16)**. If the godparents are chosen from outside the parish, they should bring a letter from their own parish stating that they are a practicing Catholic.

A baptized non-Catholic may be a Christian witness with the Catholic sponsor.



DAY AND TIME

The day and time for the celebration of the baptism will be arranged with the pastor. Baptisms can occur during a weekend Liturgy or be scheduled for a separate time. You should be at the church 15 minutes before the scheduled time.

The application questionnaire is included in the packet. Please answer all questions carefully. You may be asked to come for a personal interview with the priest who will be doing the baptism.

AFTER you have read the contents of the packet, fill out the form and return it to the rectory office. You will then be contacted to arrange a date and time for the baptism.



I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

OUTLINE OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM

THE WELCOME

The priest greets the child, parents, godparents and asks three questions about the parent's intention and readiness.

1. What name do you give your child?
2. What do ask of God's church for your child?
3. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

All then listen to a reading from the Scripture and brief homily. Prayers then follow asking God to set the child free from original sin and the power of evil.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

The priest blesses the baptismal water.

He then asks the parents and godparents, on behalf of the child to answer the Baptismal Promises which express the faith into which the child will be baptized.

This is followed by the actual pouring of the water. The child is then anointed with the sacred oil of Chrism, clothed with a white garment and given a lighted baptismal candle.

CONCLUSION

Finally, the Lord's Prayer is recited by all, followed by a special blessing for the parents and all present.