

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM AT A COMMUNAL CEREMONY

St. Francis parishioners, as well as parishioners from other Catholic parishes, may choose to celebrate their child's Baptism at one of our communal (group) Baptism services. Our communal services are held once or twice a month, usually on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. There is no maximum number of families who may participate.

The Rite of Baptism consists of:

- Reception of the child by the community of faith
- The Word of God
- Renewal of Baptismal promises and profession of faith
- Baptism (either by immersion or by pouring)
- Anointing with chrism
- Presentation of the lighted candle
- Presentation of the white garment
- Lord's prayer
- Final blessing

At the Baptism Preparation class, parents learn about the Baptism procedure and the significance of each part of the Baptism rite.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PARENTS:

To schedule a Baptism at one of our communal services, please call Joan Port at 847-8205 x 249 at least two weeks prior to the Baptism date.

On the day of your child's Baptism, please plan to arrive at the doors of the church with your child's sponsor(s) at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the service. You will be greeted by one of the volunteer assisting ministers and shown to your pew. The assisting ministers will answer any questions you may have.

If you have chosen an immersion Baptism for your child, go to the sacristy behind the main altar before settling into your pew. In the sacristy, undress your child, except for a diaper, and wrap your child in one of the large towels provided or in a blanket that you may have brought.

When in your pew, the parents and child should sit on the end of the pew by the center aisle. This allows the priest to easily reach your child for the signing of the cross.

Families proceed to the baptismal font, one family at a time, for their child's Baptism. At the appropriate time, the assisting minister will direct you to the baptismal font along with your child, the child's siblings, and the sponsor(s).

When the ceremony has concluded, please take the small baptismal candle as a reminder of your child's Baptism. You may want to place your child's baptismal candle in a place of honor in your home and light it each year when you celebrate your child's birthday or anniversary of Baptism.

As you leave, don't forget any personal items you may have left in the pew or sacristy.