

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM AT MASS

St. Francis parishioners may choose to celebrate their child's Baptism at one of our regularly-scheduled weekend liturgies. The Baptism takes place immediately after the homily. The Rite of Baptism consists of:

- Reception of the child by the community of faith
- Baptism (by immersion)
- Anointing with chrism
- Presentation of the lighted candle
- Presentation of the white garment

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:

Only one family may be scheduled for each Mass, so you are encouraged to plan early for the best choice of dates. To check available dates or to schedule a Baptism, contact Joan Port at 847-8205 x 249.

Baptisms are not celebrated at Masses during the Lenten season.

On the day of your child's Baptism, please plan to arrive at the church with your child's sponsor(s) at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the liturgy.

Upon arriving, go immediately to the sacristy behind the main altar. There your child should be undressed, except for a diaper, and wrapped in one of the large towels provided or in a blanket that you may have brought.

The ushers will have reserved pews in front of the baptismal font for you, your family and friends. Parents, sponsor(s), and child should sit in the front pew near the center aisle.

The priest (or an assisting minister) and an usher will greet you before Mass and answer any questions you might have.

If you'd like, you may designate the sponsor(s) or other family members or friends to be the "gift bearers" who present the bread and wine at the Offertory. The usher will give instructions to the gift bearers.

When the Mass 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.