



Peter declared, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children”. (Acts 2: 38-39)

Dear Parent:

We welcome you and your family to the St. Francis & All Saints Churches for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. **Please take the opportunity to carefully read our guidelines in order to facilitate your celebration.**

The Sacrament of Baptism is birth into new life in Christ. It is the basis of our Christian life and the foundation of the Sacramental life of the Church. In this Sacrament, we are cleansed of our sins, reborn and re-created of water and the Holy Spirit and incorporated into the Body of Christ. We live out the promise we make at our baptism by regularly practicing our faith.

The public ministry of Jesus began with His baptism on the shore of the Jordan River. It ended with Jesus commanding the Apostles to *“go and make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He had commanded them”*. Mt. 28: 19-20. These words of Jesus from Sacred Scripture teach us the great importance of the Sacrament of Baptism. The Sacrament of Baptism has been a constant practice of the Roman Catholic Church from the earliest of times. Brainerd Lakes Catholic Churches welcomes you.

Yours in Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Rev. Anthony Wroblewski, Pastor
St. Francis & All Saints Catholic Churches

- **PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED** at one of the Brainerd Lakes Catholic Churches.
- **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** First and second time parents must attend classes. Third time parents are required to attend only if there is 5 years or more between the birth of the second and third child. Classes will take place the first two Mondays of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School (817 Juniper St.). Enter through the main door; classes are held in the Conference Room (signs will be posted). Parents are encouraged to attend class prior to the birth of their child. All godparent(s) and witnesses are welcome and encouraged to attend class as well.
- **SELECTING GODPARENTS:** Godparents play a very important role in your child’s spiritual life. They serve as role models of faith. This will help enable the child to look to their godparents as an example of how the Church teaches us to live our Catholic faith. Godparents support not only the child, but you the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparents, they represent the larger Church community. Being a godparent is not only an honor, it is a tremendous responsibility. As godparents, they need to be carefully chosen.

- **THE CHURCH REQUIREMENTS FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GODPARENTS ARE:**

1. **A child must have** one practicing Roman Catholic godparent in good standing with the Church. This Catholic godparent must:
 - a. Be at least 17 years old and be mature enough to understand, accept and carry out the duties of a godparent.
 - b. Must have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
 - c. If married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage.
 2. **Each child must have at least one**, but may have two godparents or sponsors, one male and one female.
 3. **A godparent must be living an exemplary life** consistent with the faith and morals as taught by the Roman Catholic Church.
 4. **A non-Catholic, baptized Christian** may be chosen as a Christian witness (but not as a godparent or sponsor), as long as the godparent is Catholic.
 5. **If both are Catholic**, both must meet all the criteria for a Catholic godparent as described above.
 6. **There may be no more than two godparents.**
 7. **Godparents may be represented by proxies if they are unable to be present for the ceremony. Those serving as proxies must fulfill the same requirements as godparents.**
- **SCHEDULING A BAPTISM:** Baptisms are scheduled the 1st and 3rd Sunday after Mass unless other arrangements have been made. These arrangements should be made for Baptism before family plans are made. A baptism cannot take place until all the required forms are received in the parish office.
 - **BAPTISM RECORD AND CERTIFICATE:** The Baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of the parish in which the Baptism takes place. Therefore, please be sure of the accuracy of information and the spelling of names. A Baptismal certificate will be given to you following the Baptism. Later, whenever a certificate might be needed, it can be prepared from the parish records.
 - **NAMING YOUR CHILD:** The name you select in addition to your family name will provide your child a unique identity. The long standing tradition of the Church has been to give at least one name of a saint or person from our Biblical tradition. A Christian name will provide your child with a model for Christ-centered living.
 - **CLOTHING, CANDLES AND BAPTISMAL WATER:** A white Christening gown is customary, but not required. Whatever clothing is worn should be loose enough at the neck to allow anointing of the child's chest. If a hat is worn, it should be removed for baptism. The parish will provide a white Baptismal bib and a decorated Baptismal candle. After the ceremony they will be yours to keep as a reminder of this joyous occasion. The candle can be burned on Baptismal anniversaries and when the child receives other sacraments in the future.
 - **PICTURES AT THE BAPTISM:** Photographs and videos are encouraged at the Baptism ceremony. These are excellent way of sharing the memory of this joyous and special day. Please be sure to follow the instructions of the celebrant to insure that you will be getting the best pictures and not interfering with the ceremony. The celebrant is usually more than happy to stay for pictures with your family after the Baptism.
 - **FAMILY DONATION:** There is no fee, however many families wish to offer a donation on the occasion of their child's Baptism. This may be placed in an envelope and brought to the St. Francis & All Saints parish office. It can also be mailed to 411 No. 10th St., Brainerd, MN, 56401. Please be sure to indicate that the donation is for the occasion of your child's (name) baptism.