

ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH
BAPTISM INFORMATION

We are happy to assist you in this important sacrament for your child. Included in this packet, are the required forms.

- **Baptism Registration:** This information is for us to create the baptism certificate and to record the baptism.
- **Sponsor Certification Form:** This form includes the requirements for the selection of a godparent or godparents (technically only one godparent is required). **These are very important and must be adhered to.** The Godparent Certification forms are to be filled out by the Catholic godparents and signed by the pastor or his representative where they are registered and should **include the parish seal.**

Once these documents are back to the office, we can secure a date for the baptism.

If this is your first child, you are required to complete a baptism preparation class. This preparation class is a DVD that can be borrowed from the church office, once the completed forms are received. By completing the baptism preparation at home, we feel parents can go at their own pace and reflect on any questions they may have for the celebrant.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Merideth Johnson

Parish Secretary

St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church

45 Beach City Road

Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

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ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA BAPTISM REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Name of child _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Father's name _____

Father's religion _____

Mother's name and maiden name _____

Mother's religion _____

Couple married in the Catholic church _____

Godfather's name _____

Godfather's religion _____

Godmother's name _____

Godmother's religion _____

Is either Godparent represented by proxy _____

If so, proxy's name _____

Was the child privately baptized? _____

Was the child adopted? _____

Office use Only:

Name of Priest/Deacon _____

Date of baptism _____

*St Francis by the Sea Catholic Parish
45 Beach City Road
Hilton Head Is SC 29926*

SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM

This is to certify that I, _____ of
Sponsor's Name

Sponsor's parish where they are registered and address

Accept the invitation to be a Godparent for _____

Who will be baptized at St. Francis by the Sea on _____

- I do affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic who, if applicable, was married in the Catholic Church and who participates at Mass weekly and lives my faith to the best of my ability.
- I understand that I am witnessing the commitment of the child's parents to raise the child in the Catholic faith and to support them.
- I agree to accept responsibility for this child's religious training should circumstances require it.

Sponsor's signature

Date

Signature of Pastor from parish where sponsor is a registered member

Parish Seal

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Parish Seal

CANONICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF A GODPARENT AND CHRISTIAN WITNESS

The significance of a Godparent at the Sacrament of Baptism requires that the parent(s) consider very seriously the faith and religious practice of the person proposed for this role. The sources for accessing the qualifications for the role of Godparent are *The Code of Canon Law* (1983) and *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994) promulgated by His Holiness, John-Paul II. Pastors, assistant pastors, pastoral assistants and directors of religious education should provide an appropriate catechesis in the preparation programs for the Sacraments of Initiation. The following guidelines are provided to answer the usual questions that arise when parents or candidates are discerning a person for these roles.

GODPARENT FOR BAPTISM

- The canonical guidelines for selecting a Godparent (*patrinus*) are found in cann. 872-874. A person to be baptized needs only **one** Godparent. If the tradition of having two is desired, the person or their parent(s) may choose a man and a woman. Two Godparents of the same sex is not permitted.
- The mother or the father may **not** be a Godparent. The role of Godparent is to assist the parent(s) in the training of the faith. The roles are distinct and not to be mixed.
- A Godparent is a Catholic in good standing, that is, living the Gospel message in their daily personal lives. They should practice the faith regularly. They are to be at least sixteen years of age, have the proper aptitude and intention to assume this role, and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Catholics married outside the Church, or Catholics who choose to cohabit outside of the Sacrament of Marriage are not permitted to be Godparents due to their irregular lifestyle.
- Any Catholic who is not living according to the doctrinal and moral teaching of the Church should not be asked to serve in this important role as Godparent.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS FOR BAPTISM

- Any Catholic, who has abandoned the faith, even if they now are active members in another Christian Church or community, may **not** serve as a Godparent or as a Christian Witness. They have separated themselves from the Church and cannot serve even as a witness.
- A Christian Witness is a validly baptized non-Catholic who practices their faith in Christ in a visible and sincere manner.