



Baptism Policy for the Church of St. James

Welcome. It is the joy of the parish family of St. James to welcome you to the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation by which one is cleansed of original sin, made a temple of the Holy Spirit, and a member of the Catholic Church. Because you are choosing to have your child baptized into the Catholic Church, there are certain obligations.

- 1) At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, registered at St. James Church or the territorial parish, that is, the parish that is geographically the closest to one's residence. A practicing Catholic is one who worships at Mass on a weekly basis and who contributes to the life of the parish.
- 2) The reception of Baptism requires a promise, on the part of the Catholic parent, to raise the child in his/her faith.
- 3) Regarding godparents, there must be at least one, who is a practicing Catholic. In the Diocese of Metuchen, a Catholic godparent must be at least 14 years of age, confirmed and if they are married, must be in a valid marriage. If the person whom you are considering for godparent is divorced and remarried without an annulment, he/she may not serve as a sponsor since he/she is in an invalid marriage. If the godparents are not from St. James, they must secure a sponsor certificate from their own parishes. If a godparent is a baptized non-Catholic Christian (not a former Catholic), he/she may serve as a Christian Witness. The role of the witness is the same as the godparent. The only difference is that the Christian Witness is relieved of the obligation to assist the parents in raising the child Catholic.
- 4) Baptismal Instruction Sessions are held on the first Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in room seven in the Pastoral Center and is required for first-time parents. This session helps parents and godparents reflect on their faith and their reason for seeking to have their child Baptized. Both parents should attend, and sponsors are strongly encouraged to attend. I encourage you to attend a session before the birth of your child. Please contact the parish office at 766-0888, ext. 3, Monday - Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to register for this session.

The sacrament of Baptism is usually administered on Sundays at 1:15 p.m. The donation to the church for baptism at St. James is \$100.00. Please submit a Baptism request form on the parish website www.saintjamesbr.org.

If you do not want your child's name printed in the church bulletin, which is in turn available on our website, please notify the parish office.

Congratulations on the birth of your child and be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Sylvester J. Cronin
Pastor

IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION ON THE WEEKEND OF THE BAPTISM, PLEASE CALL
(908) 766-0888 EXT. 8 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE