

Dear Parents:

We look forward to your child's upcoming baptism. It is such a special time when we present a child to the Lord and ask Him to bring your son or daughter into the Catholic Church and begin their initiation in the Catholic way of life.

Please read carefully the information in this packet. In order to get the preparation going we would ask you to do the following:

- ___ Complete the enclosed Pre-Baptismal Information Form. Please be sure to provide all of the information requested on the form. NOTE: If your child is not yet born you can provide name and birth information later.
- ___ Attach a photocopy of the child's birth certificate. NOTE: If your child is not yet born you can provide this later.
- ___ Decide on godparents (see Role of the Godparents enclosed in this packet). Only one godparent is necessary. Two are welcome. To serve as a Godparent the individual must be a practicing Catholic. As long as there is one godparent, a non-Catholic could also serve as a Christian "witness" at the Baptism. Have your godparents sign and date the "Role of the Godparents" form and include with your Pre-Baptismal Information form.
- ___ Include the \$25 Baptism Seminar fee.

You can return the Form and the documents by mail, or drop them by our Office. Once we have the information, a member of our staff will contact you regarding the Baptism Seminar and setting a date for your Baptism. If you are preparing here but celebrating the Baptism in another location, please let the staff member know that when they call.

The following staff members coordinate our Baptism process:

1. Suzie Malloy, Baptism Coordinator, ext. 111
2. Carol Carrier, ext. 137

Both can be reached through our main number: (480) 899-1990

May God bless you and your family during this special time.



Rev. John Coleman
Pastor



Parent Information Sheet

1. Begin Preparation Early.

If possible, start the Baptism process as soon as you know you are pregnant. Most families find this easier.

2. Register and Stay Active.

Baptism is a sacrament of initiation into the Family of God, the Catholic Faith Community. It is a sacrament of belonging. Therefore, the first step is that the child's family be part of the community, which means that they are registered and *active members of the parish.

3. Complete the Pre-Baptismal Information Form and attach Your Godparent Forms.

Return the forms to the Parish Office or Religious Education Office. If possible, this is to be done as soon as you know you are pregnant. All godparents need to sign **The Role of the Godparent Form**, signing that they are practicing Catholics who are prepared to be godparents. Godparents represent the Catholic Community at the Baptism. Their role is to support the growth of the Catholic faith in your child. Only one Catholic godparent is required, though two may be selected. All Catholic godparents must sign **The Role of The Godparent Form**. A Christian witness (a person baptized in another Christian faith tradition) may serve as an additional support for you and your child. A Christian witness is not required to sign the form.

4. Attach a copy of your child's Birth Certificate.

5. Attend a Baptism Preparation Seminar. (Usually held on a Saturday, 8:45 - 11:30 a.m. Check with Baptism Coordinator for seminar dates). Both parents are required by the Diocese to attend a Baptism Preparation seminar. Godparents are invited to attend a Baptism seminar at St. Andrew or at their own parish, but are not required. You are welcome to bring your infant to the seminar.

6. Schedule the Date for the Baptism.

Do not schedule family airfare arrangements until the Baptism date is confirmed with the Coordinator of Christian Initiation and all sacramental preparations are complete.

**Active membership in the parish is communicated in a number of ways, including the following:*

- Active participation in a ministry. St. Andrew's offers over 60 ministries which provide an opportunity for active membership. We want you to feel part of St. Andrew's community! One of the ministries is bound to fit you. St. Andrew's is an energetic and dynamic community because our members are actively involved with our community.
- Regular participation in Mass on a weekly basis. It takes everyone actively participating to create a vibrant celebration. The greater the vibrancy of the Mass, the more it touches hearts.
- Using the weekly offering envelopes or E-Giving.

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

PRE-BAPTISMAL INFORMATION FORM

Today's Date: _____ Shelby ___ Date _____ Birth Cert ___ Pd. _____ Int. _____

Scheduled Date of Baptism *(completed by office)* _____ Scheduled Date of Seminar _____

Baptism Time & Presider: _____

Please Print All Names Clearly for the Baptism Certificate:

Child's Name: _____

First Middle Last

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

City State

If expecting, date baby due: _____

Was the child adopted? _____ If yes, is the adoption process final? _____ Attach documents.

Father's Name: _____

First Middle Last

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Phone #: Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Religion: _____ Email: _____

Mother's Name: _____

First Middle Last

Full Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Phone #: Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Religion: _____ Email: _____

Godparent Information: *If you are uncertain of the Godparents information, submit this form anyway and update at a later time.*

Godfather's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Has the godfather been Baptized, Confirmed, and made his First Communion in the Catholic Church? _____

Is he a practicing Catholic? _____

If not Catholic, what Christian denomination is he a practicing member? _____

Godmother's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Has the godmother been Baptized, Confirmed, and made her First Communion in the Catholic Church? _____

Is she a practicing Catholic? _____

If not Catholic, what Christian denomination is she a practicing member? _____

Parents are: (check one or more)

_____ Married by a Catholic Priest

_____ Separated

_____ Civil Marriage

_____ Divorced

_____ Unmarried Parent (**please include a copy of child's Birth Certificate**)

Faith Practice of Parent (s)

(Check all appropriate boxes)

MASS ATTENDANCE:

Weekly

Occasionally (Once A Month)

Seldom (Holidays)

Never

Baptized Catholic

Penance/Eucharist

FATHER

MOTHER

Other children living with parents

NAME CURRENT AGE BAPTISED(Y/N) PENANCE/EUCHARIST(Y/N) CONFIRMED(Y/N)

Comments: _____

Concerns/Special Circumstances: _____

Details for Out of Parish Baptism:

Parish

City, State

Date

Approved: _____

S.A.M.S.' (St. Andrew's Moms) is an active ministry for mothers with young children at St. Andrew's.

I give my permission to publish my child's name in the S.A.M.S.' monthly Newsletter.

Parent's signature

UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is the initial sacrament of faith. In this sacrament, the person is immersed into the Paschal Mystery -- the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. The effects of Original Sin are combated in that Baptism transforms the relationship between God and the believer and His light brings us out of darkness into the splendor of God's kingdom of light. Through the waters of Baptism, we enter a new kind of life, the life of the spirit.

Infant Baptism celebrates the saving faith already transforming the lives of the parent and of the community, a faith that will be shared, by word and example with the newly baptized infants as they grow into responsible young adulthood. This ancient practice of Infant Baptism continues in the church today. Parents and community must clearly understand the Christian meaning of Baptism, and must freely choose to celebrate the sacrament as a time of growth in their own relationship with God. The goal of Christian Initiation is the formation of a spirit filled adult community of deeply committed Christians who in bearing witness to their faith in Christ, glorify their Father in heaven. So Baptism must be understood as a 'new birth' into a way of life. It is the first stage in an extended process of growth toward Christian maturity. In choosing Baptism for an infant, parents and the community accept the responsibility to continue the initiation of the baptized through Eucharist and Confirmation. Grace builds on nature, and the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, are but milestones in the spiritual journey of the awakening child.

For Christians, Christ is the 'sacrament', the effective sign of God's love, mercy, and power in our lives. Since Christ acts through His Church, the Christian Community, the sacraments need to be understood and seen in the context of the saving actions of the community of believers. At Baptism, marked with the sign of faith, the baptized enters into the Christian community. Now as members of this Christian community, they gather in His name to pray with, and for each other. They encourage one another by word and example, exhorting each other in faith. They bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. The sacramental celebrations within the community joyfully express this reality for the believer, thereby deepening faith and strengthening the bonds of the Christian community.

The Baptismal ritual itself is rich in meaning. The Rite includes the proclamation of the scriptures. As Christians, this states the importance of the word of God in the life of the Christian community, and the individual Christian. The Word also comes alive in the blessing of the Baptismal Water which recalls God's saving actions among His people. The symbols used in Baptism clearly express Catholic teaching. We begin with the sign of the cross on the forehead, which marks us with the cross of Jesus, identifying the daily struggles of our life with His cross. The oil of the catechumenate strengthens us in a firm and faithful commitment to the Lord. Water, which in reality is a source of life and death, symbolizes our entrance into the death and resurrection of Jesus. The oil of chrism anoints us as priest, prophet, and king. The lighting of the candle from the Paschal candle reminds us that we have accepted Christ, who drives away the darkness of sin. Clothing in white demonstrates that we are a new creation. The "Ephpheta" or prayer over the ears and mouth indicates our openness to hear the Word of God, and our readiness to proclaim His praises.

Baptism is the door to life and the kingdom of God. It is the beginning of the initiation into a life committed to Christ. Baptism is without fruit if not lived out. The Sacrament invites the baptized on a pilgrimage with the whole Church, seeking the fullness of faith, eternal life in Christ. Baptism calls the person, in this life, to actively engage in Christ's mission of love, to become like Christ, the revelation of God's love.

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS

To be chosen as a godparent is a special honor. You represent the Catholic Faith Community. You, above all others, have been entrusted with the responsibility to participate in this child's Catholic Christian life and education.

This privilege offers you the opportunity to develop a mutually enriching spiritual relationship – one that will last throughout this life and beyond.

There are many ways you can nurture this spiritual relationship and become a special friend to your godchild. Among them are:

- Celebrate the anniversary of this holy day of Baptism each year with a visit or a card.
- As your godchild grows, listen to and share in the struggles and triumphs of living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on Catholic doctrine and values to be able to answer questions as they arise.
- Encourage a consistent life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts, which celebrate holy events – Christmas, Easter, personal growth events, graduation, first job, engagement.
- Participate in, or send assurance of prayer, as your godchild receives the other sacraments, particularly, First Communion and Confirmation, which complete initiation into the Church community, and Reconciliation.
- Be supportive of your godchild's parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their child.
- **And most importantly,** become a model of Catholic living for your godchild, through daily prayer, virtuous living and active participation in parish life and liturgy, particularly weekly Sunday Mass.

By living a Christian life in partnership with your godchild, both of you will experience the great joy of sharing a life of faith. Godparents must meet Canon Law requirements and Diocesan Guidelines, which include that the godparent

1. be not less than sixteen years of age;
2. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
3. not labour under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared (i.e. a marriage that is not validated in the Catholic Church)
4. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized. **Canon 874**

GODPARENT'S COMMITMENT

I understand my commitment to the above and accept the responsibility of being a godparent for:

Name of Child

Signature of Godparent

Date of Commitment

Print Name of Godparent