

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community
Order of the Mass with Baptism
Instructions for Parents and Godparents

Prior to Mass:

- Do **NOT** put any lotions or cream on the child. Lotions and creams make the skin slick when wet and becomes a safety issue.
- Dress the child in clothes that are easy to take off and **NOT** the white garment
- Arrive at the church no later than 20 minutes prior to Mass
- Sit in the front rows of the section nearest the Baptismal Font. There should be a towel on the chair.
- When signaled by the Deacon, parents and godparent(s) come up and stand behind the font facing the assembly.

Opening Commentary

Reception of the child (children) – This takes place while standing behind the font.

- Parents will be asked, "What name do you give your child?"
Respond with the child's given name
- Parents will be asked, "What do you ask of God's Church for (name)?"
Respond: Baptism
- Parents and then godparent(s) are asked if they accept the responsibility for training in the faith.
Respond: "We do." Or "We are."
- The Deacon signs each child on the forehead and invites the parents and godparent(s) to do the same. The presider will also sign each child.

Entrance Procession

- Order – Processional Cross, candle, parents (carrying child), sponsors, Deacon with the Book of the Gospels, Presider. **(Parents: please allow the community to bless your child along the way as invited to do so by the Deacon.)**
- Parents and godparent(s) bow to the altar then go to their seats

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word – During the **homily**, parents should prepare their child for Baptism. Remove necessary garments from the child and wrap them in the towel provided.

After the Homily – Parents and godparent(s) are invited to the font

- Parents bring your child still wrapped in the towel.
- Godparent(s) bring the white garment.

General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful) – Litany of the Saints

Blessing of the Water

Rite of Exorcism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith – The assembly is invited to respond in solidarity with the parents to the Baptismal Promises with a loud, faith filled, 'I do'.

Baptism

- Each child is baptized by sitting them in the font or held over the font (depending on age) and water is poured over them.
- The child is presented to the assembly and returned to the parent with the towel. The assembly will typically sing, "You have put on Christ..."

Anointing with Sacred Chrism and Clothing with the White Garment

- The child is anointed with Sacred Chrism.
- Deacon then prays and lays the White Garment on (each) child

Lighted Candle – The Baptismal candle is presented to the parents and godparent(s).
"Receive the light of Christ... "

Ephphetha Prayer – The child's ears and mouth are touched by the Deacon.

Parents go to a more private area with the child(ren) to get them dressed in the white garment and then return to their seats.

Godparent(s) go to the gift table to bring up the gifts at the Offertory

Presentation of the Gifts: Godparent(s)

Eucharistic Prayer and Communion

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Presentation of the Baptism Certificate

Final Blessing and Dismissal: Presider

Recessional – Parents and godparent(s) should follow the Cross and candle as in the entrance procession.

NOTE: Photographs may be taken after Mass. During Mass photographers are asked to remain seated and take pictures without flash.

Do NOT stand to take pictures. Another option is for one photographer to sit in the choir section... if there is space available!