



Your Baptism date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Baptism Policy for the Church of Saint James**

Welcome. It is the joy of the parish family of Saint 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 Saint 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 married, must be in a valid marriage blessed by the Catholic Church. 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 members of Saint James Church, they must secure a sponsor certificate from their own parish(es). 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 that of a 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 10:00 a.m. in room seven in the Pastoral Center. Attendance is required for first-time parents. This session helps parents and godparents reflect on their faith and their reasons for seeking to have their child baptized. Both parents should attend, and sponsors are strongly encouraged to attend, ideally 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 Saint James is \$100.00.

If you do not want your child's name printed in the church bulletin, which is also available on our Web site, 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