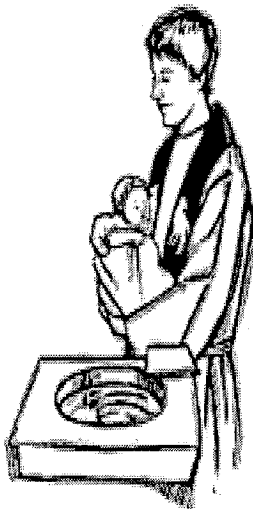


BAPTISM



For us Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a life long journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God who first loved us from the moment of our conception in our mother's womb.

Baptism is a ritualization and manifestation of something real-of the outpouring of God's spirit and of our acceptance of that transforming love. It remains for us to grow into what we already are; daughters and sons of God. Baptism celebrates a family's and a community experience of that love in the baptized. Water is the obvious symbol that we associate with baptism, representing life, death, cleansing and growth.

The Rite of Baptism for children emphasizes the importance of faithfulness on the part of the parents when it says to parents, in asking to have your children baptized, "You are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith" that word "PRACTICE" is crucial; it calls for Christian modeling on the part of parents.

BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

1. One of the parents must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. If you are married outside the Catholic Church and would like your marriage to be blessed by the priest, please call 634-1288 and we will work with you.
2. We also require that you register with Holy Family Catholic Community.
3. You need to attend Baptism instruction/seminar held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Chapel Three Annex at 1800. A Registration Form and a Baptismal Record Worksheet must be filled out before going to the seminar. Please call 634-3939 to sign up for the class. If you have taken the class before and it has been two years, we require that you attend another one.
4. GODPARENTS: One must be a practicing Catholic in good standing while the other person is considered a Christian witness. If a Godparent is not in Okinawa, a letter from their home parish is required to show that they have attended some form of baptism instruction and are practicing their catholic faith regularly. Proxies maybe used but, may also be required to meet the same requirement. Only two godparents will be put in the certificate.
5. If your child is 7 years or older, they will have to attend the (RCIC) Rite of Christian Initiation for Children through our Religious Education program which runs from May through September.
6. Baptism will be celebrated with Sunday Masses as a community celebration. Parents may also request to celebrate their child's baptism at whichever mass they attend.