



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AT PRINCE OF PEACE

A Word of Welcome

You are reading this booklet because you have made a request of Prince of Peace to have your child baptized in the Catholic faith. The Church rejoices when her little ones are brought into her life to become children of God and heirs to heaven. A new creation is added to the Kingdom, and the Church increases her family. When the LORD Jesus ascended into heaven, he charged his apostles, the first bishops and priests to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.”

The word *disciple* means learner. The Church seeks to make everyone a learner of the teaching of Jesus Christ, and she does so by making new Christians and forming them in the faith. When the Rite of Baptism starts, the celebrant asks a question to the parents presenting the child for baptism: “What do you ask of the Church of God?” The answer (depending on the form of the rite) is “baptism” or “faith.”

Baptism is a pledge that one believes in the teaching of Christ and wishes to impart it. Just as your child was born naturally of a mother and a father, now you can give that child the opportunity to be reborn supernaturally with God as Father and the Catholic Church as Mother and Teacher.

The two greatest gifts that we can give our children are life and faith. Thank you for wanting to give your precious one both!

Father Christopher Smith

What Is Baptism?

First, What is a Sacrament?

The Church calls baptism a sacrament that initiates a person into the life of grace in a very special way, but it may be helpful to first discuss the sacraments in general. A sacrament is a visible sign, instituted by Christ, by which both grace and sanctification are communicated to the human soul.

Each sacrament, as outward or sensible signs, possesses what theologians call both form and matter. Simply put, this means that for a sacrament to validly confer the grace it signifies, it must have both the prescribed words spoken (form) and must also possess the required materials and actions (matter).

This simple but profound definition means that we believe each sacrament is a gift to the world, through the ministry of His Church, and that they are the primary channels of his grace for the faithful to grow in holiness.

Finally, the Church teaches us there are seven sacraments in total. These sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. Each one is an encounter with God who does something in the soul.

Baptism is the doorway to all seven sacraments. No other sacrament can be validly received unless a person has already been baptized. Traditionally, the font where the Rite of Baptism is celebrated is at the entrance to the church, since by that sacrament a child enters the family of the Church and can receive other sacraments as well.

Baptism: Doorway to the Seven Sacraments

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church,

“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.”

We’ve said each sacrament must possess both the proper form and matter. In the case of baptism, the essential form and matter is to pronounce the words “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” while either pouring water over the candidate or immersing the candidate into water. Ordinarily, the Parish clergy perform Baptisms, but there are extraordinary circumstances when any person can validly baptize – see the section *Who Can Baptize?* in this booklet for more information.

Water and the Holy Spirit

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.” Jesus teaches us that we cannot come to His Father except by Him, and the way to come to Him is by being reborn of water and the Spirit. We all know what it means to sin: to choose anything other than the good which God wants for us.

We also know that “the wages of sin is death.” Sin separates us from God and merits our eternal punishment. When Adam and Eve committed the first sin on earth, called Original Sin, they caused death to enter the world. As a result, all of us experience *concupiscence*, a disordered inclination to sin. This inclination means that we now naturally tend to do those things which seem pleasant, even when that pleasure is disordered and runs contrary to God’s designs. Thus, we all experience the unruly desires of the will such as pride, ambition, or envy.

God loves us and wants us to be with Him, so He gives us the gift of baptism, which cleanses us from sin and gives us grace to overcome the effects of sin and concupiscence.

Baptism was instituted by Christ when he voluntarily submitted Himself to the baptism intended to reconcile sinners to God, administered by Saint John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The Greek word for baptism originally meant “immerse”, which is both metaphorically important and descriptive of many examples of the Early Church’s ritual. Like many early Christians, and the crowds of repentant people who came to John’s ministry in the wilderness, Christ was immersed under the water of the Jordan river.

The repentant sinner, whether water is poured over them or they are immersed into the pool, is **indeed** immersed into the life of Grace. They are spiritually buried to the life of sin and death, and upon being raised out of the water, Christ raises them to new life, sharing in the promise of His Resurrection.

Because water cleanses the body, we use water in baptism to symbolize the cleansing of the soul. But the washing of baptism is not merely symbolic - it brings into reality what it signifies. Cleansing of the soul accompanies the cleansing of the body because, even though the water is poured by a human hand, the Holy Spirit effects the spiritual cleansing of the baptized.

Since nothing unclean can enter the presence of God, baptism is necessary to be saved. We recall again the conversation of our Lord with Nicodemus; Scripture is clear: again, unless a person is born of “water and Spirit,” they cannot enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, the Church teaches us that it is so necessary, that if a person desires baptism and dies before they receive it, or sheds their blood for Christ’s sake, the very **desire** for baptism on the part of the person means they are baptized as well.

What Baptism Does

Gift of Grace – a Sacrament of Regeneration

Baptism is sacrament of regeneration: it takes a wounded human nature and gives it new life. The baptized is truly reborn, raised with Christ from death just as He rose from the dead. “Baptism... now saves you, not as a removal of

dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” The Christian life begins in baptism, and that life continues to grow in grace as it is nurtured through living the life of Grace God has intended for all people through union with His Church.

United in Grace - Sacrament of Initiation

Baptism is also the sacrament of initiation. Saint Paul in Romans II uses the image that we are grafted onto Christ by baptism and faith. We become members of Christ’s Body, the Church. By baptism we enter the Catholic Church and have all of the rights and responsibilities of the lay faithful. The baptized are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart.” Therefore, we confess the *one* sacramental baptism shared by all Christians – even those separated by the sad divisions in the Church today.

The Church proclaims that any validly baptized person is a baptized Catholic Christian, albeit those outside the visible bonds of communion with the Catholic Church are Christians without the recourse to the ordinary sacramental life Christ desires us all to share.

Sealed in Grace - Sacramental Character

Baptism imprints on the soul a special character. The baptized is given the ability to worship God as a member of His Church. By baptism, a Christian becomes a child of God and an heir to heaven. Further, the Church teaches that through baptism, the Christian receives the gifts of priest, prophet, and king – that is, a share in the royal priesthood of Christ and a participation in his prophetic office. Even when we sin and lose God’s grace because of our transgression, that does not take away our baptism. Baptism cannot be repeated, for once God has made a covenant with us to save us, He cannot take that away. If we are baptized and we remain faithful to Him, then we are assured of a crown of righteousness when we pass from this life to the next.

Who can Baptize?

The bishop of the diocese in which you reside or the pastor of the parish of which you are a member has the responsibility and should also have the great joy to baptize the members of his parish. Pastors can delegate that right to other local priests or deacons within his parish or in neighboring parishes. The

ordinary ministers of the sacrament of baptism are the local parish clergy. At Prince of Peace, this means one of our priests or deacons will joyfully perform baptisms as scheduling allows. Should you request a specific priest or deacon on staff, the parish will try to accommodate this if possible.

Sometimes, families have a friend who is a Catholic priest or deacon from a different parish whom they want to celebrate the baptism. If the baptism is to take place in our parish, the celebrant of the baptism must provide an authentic copy of his *celebret* and a letter of good standing from his bishop dated within six months of the actual baptism date. This is in addition to the other documentation required of the parents for the baptism. Such a celebration of a baptism by a cleric not from the parish is not to take place during the regularly scheduled parish baptism times and must be scheduled through the Deacon Nestor Acosta, the Director of Baptismal Preparation.

In extraordinary circumstances, as in the case of dire medical emergency, anyone (even a non-Christian) *may* and if the situation calls for it *should* baptize an unbaptized person following this formula. The person baptizes by pouring water upon the unbaptized person's head and saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." If someone is baptized in this emergency context, the parish should be notified as soon as possible.

Who Can be Baptized?

An adult who has not already been baptized may present himself for a period of preparation called the *catechumenate* at his local parish, after which he may be baptized, generally at Easter. Children who have not already been baptized may be presented by their parents or legal guardians for baptism when they have fulfilled all of the parish's pre-requisites for baptism. In order to have their child baptized, the parents or legal guardians must demonstrate that they are able to raise the child in the Catholic faith and also promise to do so. Apart from an emergency, children under the age of reason cannot be baptized except by their parents' consent.

When parents are not practicing the faith or are living in a marriage situation contrary to the faith, the parish will encourage them to regularize their marriage situation as well as demonstrate a real practice of the faith as part of the preparation for their child's baptism.

Because baptism is a sacrament of faith and the parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith, a child cannot be baptized if there is no reasonable belief on the part of the pastor that the child will be raised in the faith. Older children (who have reached the age of reason) who spontaneously ask for baptism and are able to be prepared for it can be baptized if there is a reasonable belief that the child will be able to practice the faith. Sometimes children grow up in homes where neither parent is a practicing Catholic. In those situations, the individual(s) presenting the child for baptism should speak with the pastor to discern how the child can be raised in the faith.

A pastor or his delegate cannot baptize a person who is not a member of his parish except by special permission of the pastor of the parish were the person is a member. Since baptism is an initiation into the life of the Church, the parish takes her role in shepherding the community of faithful very seriously. At Prince of Peace, we seek to not only bring children into the mystical body of Christ, but into the vibrant, local expression of Christ's Body right here in Taylors.

Families are therefore asked to maintain an active participation in the life of the parish for a minimum of six months before scheduling baptisms.

This participation is measured by six consecutive months of attendance of Sunday Masses and Holy Days, counted using the parish-envelope system. If a family is new to the area and has a child requiring baptism before they reach that six-month period, they must submit a signed letter of good-standing from their previous pastor stating that they were active, registered, and contributing members there for at least six months prior to joining our parish. *For more information, see the parish Active Parishioner Policy, which can be found at the end of this booklet.*

When Should we Have our Child Baptized?

A child should be baptized at the first reasonable opportunity after their birth. It is gravely sinful to delay baptism for light reasons, like waiting for certain relatives to be present at the rite or to coincide with a day special to the family. It is advisable to sign up in advance for the regularly scheduled parish baptisms closest to the projected due date for the child.

Ordinarily, baptisms take place on Saturdays outside mass times, and these must be scheduled directly with the Director of Baptismal Preparation.

Important Note: No dates may be even tentatively scheduled until the parish has received all the required forms and documentation outlined in this booklet.

Where Should we Have our Child Baptized?

Baptisms normally take place in the family's parish church, as a child should be baptized in the parish where his parents are members. If a parent wishes a child to be baptized in another Catholic parish, the pastor will gladly cooperate with a family's wish to do so provided that the pastor in whose parish the baptism is to take place consents.

If you are not a member of our parish, but wish to have your baptism here, you must include with the Baptism Registration & Information Form a certified letter from your pastor giving the pastor of our parish or his delegate permission to baptize your child as well as a certificate of having completed the baptismal preparation requirements required by your parish. If the celebrant is not a priest or deacon from our parish, he must provide a copy of his *celebret* and a letter of good standing from his bishop to be included in your Registration Form.

If you wish a specific member of the parish clergy to celebrate the baptism, you must make this clear in your correspondence with the Director of Baptismal Formation. Realize, however, that complex scheduling may mean your choice of celebrant is unavailable on the date you desire the baptism.

Non-Catholic ministers, while warmly welcome to attend the ceremony, should not be invited to perform baptisms in the Catholic Church, and may therefore not participate in the celebrations of baptisms in this parish.

Responsibilities of Parents to Baptized Children

When a Catholic marries, he promises to raise any children in the Catholic faith. That solemn promise before God is repeated in written form as part of the baptismal registration packet as well as verbally during the Rite of Baptism. Because at baptism a child becomes not only a member of the Catholic Church but also becomes subject to all of the laws of the Church, it is important that the child be raised in the faith to know what his rights and responsibilities are as a Catholic as well as to have a deeper relationship with God.

What responsibilities do Catholic parents have towards their baptized children?

“Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.” They must first be models of Catholic life and practice. They must not only provide for their children to receive the sacraments of baptism, penance, the Eucharist, and confirmation, but they must also worship at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation with their children, pray with them, and provide for their religious education.

Catholic parents are obligated to provide a Catholic education for their children. Before answering questions of *where* and *how* to school Catholic Children, it must be understood that parents have a grave obligation to ensure their children are raised in the Faith. Prince of Peace is blessed to offer a rigorous parochial school for families to join and be formed by, and we also offer faithful weekly religious education as a healthy supplement for our families which, for any reason, are not part of the parish school.

Their solemn promise to raise their children in the faith obligates parents to create a home and a lifestyle in which the faith is genuinely taught, lived and loved. The Church is a great resource for helping families come closer to Christ and grow in their faith, but the ultimate responsibility lies with parents. As a parish, we are growing together in Christ, and through our families, school, and Religious Education programs, we seek to raise saints together!

Sometimes, one parent is Catholic and the other is not. The Catholic party promised to raise the child in the Faith, so it belongs to the Catholic parent to fulfill all of the pre-requisites for the baptism of the child, although the non-Catholic party is warmly encouraged to be a part of the whole process of preparation and to attend the baptism.

Out of love for their children, we encourage non-Catholic spouses to support and learn about the importance of the Catholic faith in the life of their child. We also encourage non-Catholic spouses to attend our Introduction to Catholicism classes along with their spouse to learn more about their spouse and child's Catholic faith.

Sometimes parents have left the practice of the faith and the baptism of their child is the occasion for their return to the faith. We joyfully welcome them back and invite them to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance as soon as possible.

Occasionally, parents who have been married outside of the Church request baptism for their child. The parish will encourage them to commence the process of having their marriage regularized, if possible, so that the family can worship God together. The Church invites us all to a life of joy and Grace, and through participation in the Sacramental life of the Church, families are drawn together and strengthened for the work of living out their faith together.

These parents will be contacted by the Director of Baptismal Formation and by the parish clergy to discuss how the Church can help in the regularization of the marriage, whether it includes the *annulment* of a previous marriage or the *convalidation* of the current civil marriage.

When parents who are living together but not married ask for the baptism of their child, the Director of Baptismal Formation and the parish clergy will contact them to discuss how the Church can help them to either prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony or discuss how the child can be raised within the Church and to offer any assistance the Church may provide.

All that applies to parents also applies to legal guardians. However, we delay the baptism of children who are in the care of those who are not legal guardians or parents until permission can be had from a parent or legal guardian.

Baptism Preparation

Each parish has slightly different requirements for what is expected of parents presenting their child for baptism. This parish requires that parents read this little book and sign and submit the Covenant of Understanding as well as the Baptism Registration & Information to the Director of Baptismal Formation as soon as possible before a proximate date for the baptism. After these forms are reviewed by the Director of Baptismal Formation, you are welcome to attend a baptismal preparation class. You may also be asked to make an appointment with the Director of Baptismal Formation and/or one of the parish priests to get to know you better.

All parents who have not already had a child baptized in this parish are required to take this class, and those who have are encouraged to take this class for continuing education. Those who have already had a child baptized in this parish may alternatively choose to complete a home-based study on baptism with resources supplied by the Director of Baptismal Formation.

After the class, you will have an opportunity to schedule the baptism with the Director of Baptismal Formation. Often, the pastor of Prince of Peace delegates baptisms to the deacons of the parish. Should you wish one of the parish priests to do the baptism, you must coordinate that with the Director of Baptismal Formation.

In this parish, we provide for the celebration of Baptism in Latin, English, or Spanish in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite as well as in Latin or English in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

Selection of Godparents

At the baptism, there are generally two godparents or *sponsors*. The role of these sponsors is to assist the parents in the religious education of the children. There must be at least one sponsor selected. Because the children are baptized into the Catholic Church, and because of the special spiritual bond created between the baptized and their sponsor, this sponsor *must be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Catholic Church*, sixteen or older, having received baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

This sponsor must complete the Godparent Eligibility Form, found at the end of this booklet, which requires an official Parish Seal from the godparents' parish and signature from their pastor attesting that the individual is indeed a practicing Catholic in good standing. Because godparents serve as an example of how to live the faith, someone who is not in communion with the Church cannot serve as a sponsor.

Sometimes a sponsor is unavailable for the baptism, in which case a proxy is appointed who stands in for the sponsor at the Rite of Baptism. Families can have other Christian witnesses at the baptism who may belong to other Christian communities, but **they may not serve as sponsors**. One sponsor is sufficient, but there may be two sponsors: one male, the other female.

Naming my Child

Catholics celebrate the witness and faithfulness of the saints, and seek their special intercession for their children, which is why they name their children after saints or Biblical figures. As Pope Benedict XVI stated, "Every baptized child acquires the character of the son of God, beginning with their Christian name, an unmistakable sign that the Holy Spirit causes man to be born anew in the womb of the Church."

Nonetheless, it is permitted to use a name which is not of a saint, as long as it is not a name which is anti-Catholic, pagan, or something which could cause scandal. It is recommended that such a name be paired with a name from the Catholic tradition. If you are looking for an appropriate Christian name, please see www.catholicity.com/names.

The Day of the Baptism – What to Expect?

The Rite of Baptism

On the day of the Baptism, it is important for families and guests to arrive early. They should be asked beforehand to dress modestly, preserve a reverent silence in the church, and leave all cell phones and noisy toys in their cars. The child should be dressed appropriately (traditionally in a white gown) with *no head covering, and with an easy opening to the chest*, which the celebrant anoints during the rite. Videos and photos may be taken during the baptism as long as they do not interrupt the dignity of the sacrament.

The Rite of Baptism opens with a series of questions in which parents and godparents ask the Church for baptism and give the name to their child.

In the Ordinary Form, it opens as follows:

V: What name do you give your child?

R: *N.*

V: What do you ask of God's Church for *N.*?

R: *Baptism.*

And in the Extraordinary Form:

Latin

English

V. *N.* Quid petis ab Ecclesia Dei?

V. *N.*, what do you ask of the Church of God?

R. Fidem.

R. Faith.

V. Fides, quid tibi praestat?

V. What does the faith offer you?

R. Vitam aeternam.

R. Eternal life.

An exorcism by which the Devil is expelled is then performed followed by an anointing of the child's chest with the oil of catechumens to strengthen him against the assaults of the Evil One.

After a reading from Scripture and a brief instruction from the celebrant, the parents and godparents are asked a series of questions in which they renounce evil and profess their faith. The water is blessed if it was not already.

Finally, the child is baptized using the proper formula, being held face up over the font, traditionally by the godfather. After the actual baptism, the child is anointed with the fragrant oil of chrism as a sign of the beauty of his newly purified soul. This chrism recalls again the baptismal gifts of priest, prophet, and king.

The child may then be given a white garment to be placed over their baptismal gown and the godparents light a candle from the large Easter candle. The celebrant may also perform the rite called the *Ephephthah*, calling on God to open the ears and mouth of the new Christian to receive and transmit the Word of God.

At the end of the service, the celebrant calls down the blessing of God upon parents, godparents and guests and can then bless any religious articles destined as gifts to the child.

Photos may then be taken, and the family rejoices in the baptism of a new child of God.

Many families choose to have receptions or parties after the baptism. Please contact the parish if you would like to use one of the parish facilities for such a party. It is also customary, but not required, to give an appropriate financial gift to the parish and/or the celebrant of the baptism, while it is understood that there is no charge for any sacrament.

After the Baptism: Enlightened Christian Life

Baptism is the beginning of a journey of faith that lasts for all eternity. The family is asked during the Rite of Baptism to help the child keep the flame of faith burning brightly throughout his life and to help him keep unstained the white baptismal garment which signifies the purity of the soul.

In Baptism, Christ gives light to the soul, dispelling the darkness of sin. It is the beginning of a further, deeper initiation into the faith accompanied by prayer and religious education, and preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation, Penance and Holy Communion. The ancient Christians called baptism the sacrament of illumination, and the remembrance of the grace received in baptism will always illuminate the way of the Christian disciple.

Celebrating the Baptism of Your Child

Every child anxiously looks forward to celebrating the day he was born. Catholic families must also celebrate the day of their baptisms when they were reborn of water and the Spirit. Celebrating baptismal anniversaries by lighting the candle received at baptism, holding a simple party, looking at pictures, and praying for the celebrant of your baptism are all ways to keep that day special.

Documentation of Baptism

After the baptism, the Director of Baptismal Formation will send you a certificate of the child's baptism. The baptism will be registered in the parish's records. This is an important document, so please keep this with your family records.

Whenever someone receives a sacrament, proof of baptism is needed. You can always call the parish where you were baptized and request that they issue an official certificate of baptism in case you need it, which you will when the child prepares for First Communion, Confirmation, Holy Orders or Matrimony. It can also be a useful identification document. Please keep a copy of the certificate along with your important papers and consider framing the original for your child.

What do I do Now?

After you have read this booklet, signed the Covenant of Understanding, filled out the Baptism Registration & Information Form and obtained any other documentation requested in the forms, please bring it to the office or send it in an envelope to the following address:

*Director of Baptismal Formation
Prince of Peace Catholic Church
1209 Brushy Creek Rd
Taylors, SC 29687*

Afterwards, you will receive a phone call, letter and/or email with the list of scheduled baptismal preparation classes and an invitation to attend the class. After the class, you can schedule the actual baptism.

Remember, no dates may be even tentatively scheduled until the parish has received all the required forms and documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Baptismal Formation for the parish. It is a great pleasure to have your family as part of our parish family. We are here to help you and yours come closer to Christ and grow in your Catholic faith. Please let us know how we can help you to do that!

Important Contact Information

Director of Baptismal Formation

Deacon Nestor Acosta

864.331.3905

nestor.acosta@princeofpeacetaylors.org

Questions about the Baptism Class

Deacon Gus Suarez

gus.suarez@princeofpeacetaylors.org

Active Parishioner Policy

In order to be considered an active parishioner of Prince of Peace, you must do the following for at least six months:

1. Register in the parish with the registration form found online or in the narthex
2. Assist at Mass at Prince of Peace at least 75% of all Sundays and Holy Days.
3. Contribute financially and by being an active part of parish life
4. Use the envelope system to track attendance, even if your financial contribution is by electronic means, if you are ever going to need a letter of good standing. In the future, if an electronic means of check in is provided, that suffices for Mass attendance tracking.

A letter of good standing from Prince of Peace indicates that the records of the parish indicate fulfillment of all requirements for active parishioner status for at least six months. A letter of good standing is necessary for the following:

1. to have a baby baptized in any Catholic church
2. to serve as a godparent at baptism or sponsor at confirmation in any Catholic church
3. to get married in any Catholic church
4. to receive the active parishioner discount at Prince of Peace Catholic School

Active members are marked inactive in the rolls of the parish:

1. if requested
2. if after six months there is no trackable giving or envelope usage

All Catholics aged 18 or older should register under their own name with the parish they consider their spiritual home. Catholics over the age of 18 who consider Prince of Peace their spiritual home, but are under their parents' care and are away at school, military or civil service, should register in the parish and indicate that fact for our records.

Sick, homebound, or shut-in parishioners who are unable to fulfill the requirements for active parishioner status will not be marked inactive if they or their families communicate to the parish that they wish to remain active.

Inactive parishioners who may not qualify for a letter of good standing may always receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, as well as receive ecclesiastical funerals and burials. They will not be allowed to receive the sacraments of Baptism or Matrimony, serve as a godparent for Baptism or Confirmation, or receive the parishioner discount in the school, until six months of active parishioner status has been demonstrated.

These policies are almost universal in the United States, where they are a local means of applying certain dispositions of canon law to protect the integrity of the sacramental order. They are part of the ecclesiastical discipline of the Church which expects adult Catholics to be mature and active members of their parish family, indicating a minimum level of practice to receive the sacraments.

Please remember that the letter of good standing is not issued based on any particular priest's recollection of your Mass attendance; it is based on 75% Mass attendance each Sunday using the envelope system and recorded by the parish. Some people give weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or even yearly.

The letter of good standing is based, not on the frequency or amount of giving (although that should reflect a mature understanding of biblical principles of stewardship), but on Mass attendance. Now that more and more people are using electronic forms of giving, there has to be a way to track weekly Mass attendance. Right now, the only way to do this is by the use of envelopes.

If you give electronically, you may drop your offertory envelope with a o-online giving note in the offertory basket when you come. If you forget your envelope, there are some available on the credenzas in the narthex. We have a sub-committee of the parish staff looking into the possibility of electronic forms of check-in for Sunday Mass attendance; when we decide on a platform for that, this policy will be updated and the faithful notified.

Sometimes people have specific individual or family situations that mean that one or more of our requirements for active parishioner status is not possible or unduly burdensome. If you communicate in a general way to the parish office the reason for that situation, we can notate our records to that effect, so that you will not be rendered inactive if you wish to remain active.

If you change your address, email address, or phone number, please notify the parish as soon as possible. If you move away from the parish, then please do so as well.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with these policies. They are not there to make life burdensome. Instead, they are part of that ecclesiastical discipline which is a sign of true communion of heart and mind with your local Church and a maturity of faith measured, not in terms of minimalism, but authentic Catholic practice.





PRINCE *of* PEACE
Catholic Church & School
1209 Brushy Creek Road • Taylors, SC 29687
www.princeofpeacetaylors.org

Checklist of Required Materials to Schedule Baptism

BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS

- ____ Read the booklet, *The Sacrament of Baptism at Prince of Peace*, and sign the Covenant of Understanding.
- ____ Complete Baptism Registration & Information Form.
- ____ Contact godparent candidates in good standing and request they complete and submit the Godparent Eligibility Forms, ensuring they know to get their parish's official seal and pastor's signature.
- ____ Submit all paperwork.

BEFORE SCHEDULING BAPTISM

- ____ Attend Baptism Class (generally 1st Thursday of the month).
- ____ Contact Director of Baptismal Formation via email to schedule the closest available date near the proximate birth of child.

Covenant of Understanding to be Signed by Catholic Parents

I*, _____, parent of _____, have read the booklet *The Sacrament of Baptism at Prince of Peace*. I understand that I promise before God to raise my child in the Catholic faith. I have read and will comply with all of the pre-requisites mentioned in this book for my child to be baptized. I testify that I am a registered, active and contributing member of _____ parish in _____. I understand my obligations as a Catholic parent as described in this booklet and will fulfill them to the best of my ability. I also understand that scheduling the baptism depends on the availability of clergy and the church and is subject to change for serious reasons. I furthermore attest to the truth of all information contained in the Registration Form and any other written or oral correspondence with the parish, to the best of my ability. I also release the parish from any legal liability or responsibility for any accident that may happen during the preparation for and the celebration of the baptism of my child.

Father Signature

date

Mother Signature

date

**In the event that one parent is not a practicing Catholic, by signing this form, the non-Catholic parent hereby agrees to support his/her spouse in the faithful raising of their child in the Catholic Faith to the best of his/her ability, though does not necessarily imply by this agreement that they fully accept and hold to the Catholic Faith themselves. Rather, they affirm commitment to lovingly support their spouse in the full practice of his/her Faith, and promise minimally not to impede the practice of the Faith in their child's life.*



PRINCE *of* PEACE

Catholic Church & School

1209 Brushy Creek Road • Taylors, SC 29687

www.princeofpeacetaylors.net

Baptism Registration & Information Form

Name of Child: Last: _____

First: _____ Middle: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

Date of Birth: _____ City & State of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Religion of Father: _____ Religion of Mother: _____

Were Parents Married by a Catholic Priest or Deacon? _____

If not, did Parents receive permission for Form of Marriage? _____

Godfather's Full Name: _____ Religion: _____

Godmother's Full Name: _____ Religion: _____

(at least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic who can obtain a valid Sponsor Certificate from their Parish)

Will there be proxies? (stand-ins for Sponsors unable to attend in person) _____

If yes, provide their full names: _____

Form of Baptism Requested: Ordinary Form _____ Extraordinary Form _____

Language Requested: English _____ Latin _____

For Office Use Only:

Certificate: _____ Church Register: _____ PDS: _____

Date attended Class: _____ Active _____ Godparents _____

Extraordinary Form: (Latin) _____ (English) _____

Ordinary Form: (English) _____ (Spanish) _____ (Latin) _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Name of Celebrant: _____



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Godparent Eligibility Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I, _____, active member of _____
(Name of Godparent) (Name of Parish)

testify, that by my answers and signature below, that I am capable to serve as a Godparent for

_____ BAPTISM _____ in the Catholic Church for _____.
(Name of Candidate for Sacrament)

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ I am a practicing Catholic, regularly attend Catholic Mass, and receive the Eucharist.
- ☐ I am sixteen years of age or older and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ☐ I am not a parent to the candidate who will receive the Sacrament.
- ☐ I understand and accept the obligations of a Godparent, to lead a life of faith, to pray, and assist my candidate in his/her spiritual growth.
- ☐ I am **NOT** married **OR**
- ☐ I am in a recognized Catholic marriage (married in the Catholic Church or celebrated Convalidation of Marriage).

I hereby solemnly declare that I fulfill all the requirements and joyfully accept my role to act as a Godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Full Name of Godparent: _____

Godparent Current Address: _____

Godparent Email Address: _____

Godparent Phone Number: _____

Name of Godparent's Parish: _____

Signature of Godparent: _____ Date: _____

For GODPARENT'S PARISH use ONLY: This certifies that the above-named person is known to me as a parishioner in good standing and that he/she is qualified to serve as a Godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.



Church of Godparent: _____

Church Address: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Godparent Email Address: _____
Godparent Phone Number: _____
Name of Godparent's Parish: _____
Signature of Godparent: _____ Date: _____

For GODPARENT'S PARISH use ONLY: This certifies that the above-named person is known to me as a parishioner in good standing and that he/she is qualified to serve as a Godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Affix Parish Seal Here

Church of Godparent: _____

Church Address: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____