

## OUR LADY OF FAITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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### REQUEST FOR BAPTISM FORM

Needed for the baptism certificate:

Surname and Name of Child	
Child's Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Proposed Date of Baptism	
Home Address (at time of Baptism)	
Email Address	
Parent's Mobile No	
Father's Name and Country of Birth	
Father's Place of Origin (Nationality)	
Mother's Name and Maiden Name	
Godfather's Name	
Godmother's Name	
Would you like us to provide a baptism candle (CHF10 each)?	

### RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

The lives of most members of the Community who celebrate the Eucharist together in Our Lady of Faith make it very challenging for them to be consistently present at Sunday Mass. Every understanding and allowance is made for this. In any particular case the Director of the Mission must make a judgement as to whether the Church would want to give the Sacrament of Baptism. This judgement can be very difficult at times and Baptism (as with all the other Sacraments) can be refused.

- ❖ If the parents of the baby to be baptised are non-practising Catholics, the priest may refuse to baptise the child.
- ❖ Godparents are presumed to be practising Roman Catholics (though they tend to be still chosen because they are relatives or friends, rather than for being an excellent role model in faith). The

role of the godparents is to ensure with the parents that the child learns to live and to understand the Catholic faith. So at least one of them (optimally both) must be a practising Catholic. Only a practising Catholic can take on that role with honesty. It is desirable to have two sponsors, male and female, although in certain circumstances one may suffice and several can be allowed. This wonderful sacrament is downgraded if or when the religious commitment of the godparents is overlooked or not understood.

- ❖ Customary fee is CHF100 for baptism within the regular weekend Mass or CHF200 for private baptisms.

### WHY BAPTISM?

Baptism is an occasion for joy and hope but one which is tempered by the fact that many of those initiated and their parents have little or no involvement in our Community's life. So what can we do to ensure that we know what baptism really means? Baptism is an initiation into the family of the Church; it is a call to discipleship and it is a commissioning. *The life of the disciple must be lived by the child's parents who take upon themselves the responsibility of raising disciples for Christ.* The baptised are called to carry on the mission and message of Christ. Jesus' baptism was a public recognition of his initiation, call and commission to do God's work. We, too, have been initiated into a faith community, called to discipleship and commissioned to ministry. So let's think more about our dignity, our call and our responsibilities.

Baptism is a sign of God's love for us. When a new baby is born, we show our love by holding and hugging the child and perhaps by giving some gift that is a sign of our love. Similarly, through Baptism, God embraces a child and comes to stay with the child through the Holy Spirit. **Baptism, Christ tells us, is necessary for salvation. It is necessary to wash away the Original Sin inherited by each of us from our first parents.** God's primary way of working is through his Church. So God's 'embracing' of the child is represented by the child's reception into the community of the Church. By being 'born of the Spirit' the child joins the family of the Spirit which is the Church.

By having your child baptised you are recognising: **your belief in God and your wish that your child be open to that belief also; and** that God wishes to be present to them right from their earliest days. So as the child grows, **with your help**, he or she will be able to develop their own personal relationship with God. Through Baptism we also thank God for the gift of the new life.

The early baptism of infants is often delayed as it is regarded as more important to gather a dispersed family than to have a child baptised. But the importance of early baptism is still stressed in Church Law: 'Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks' (canon 867.1). Why is this? Because through baptism one becomes a child of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. Why on earth would you delay? That surely beats all the baby shower presents in the world. We would rightly criticise people who would allow a child to play with a dangerous toy that might deprive them of their physical life. So, why put off giving them the greatest gift – eternal life with God through a friendship forged in baptism.

### YOUR CHILD

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.  
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.  
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.