

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION  
New Milford, New Jersey**

**BAPTISM PREPARATION  
BOOKLET**

**Baptism Program \* 2023**

<i>Baptism Instruction Dates</i>	<i>Baptism Dates</i>
January 15	January 08
February 05	February 19
March 05	NONE
April 02	April 16
May 07	May 28
June 04	NONE
July 02	July 16
August 06	August 27
September 03	NONE
October 01	October 08
November 05	November 26
December 03	NONE

*Pre-Baptism Instruction is held in the  
Msgr. Fox Gathering Room on Sunday at 1:00pm  
Baptism is celebrated in Church at 1:00pm*



*Church of the Ascension  
New Milford, New Jersey  
(201) 836-8961*

Your baby's baptism is a time for celebration and joy. We, at the Church of the Ascension want to help you plan and prepare for the sacrament of baptism in the best possible way.

Baptism is one of the three sacraments of initiation of the Catholic Church, along with Confirmation and the Eucharist. A primary symbol of baptism is the community gathered for the purpose of initiating a new member. Baptism is not just a ceremony. It is the beginning of the spiritual life of a child – a life-long process of initiation into the instruction, communal life, breaking of the bread and prayer which are the life of the Church.

When a child is baptized, it is an event that is celebrated by parents and family, but, every celebration of the sacrament of baptism should be an expression of the faith and prayer of the whole parish community. Baptism not only symbolizes the acceptance of the child into the Church, but also the promise of the parents and community to give that child spiritual guidance and support.

Parents seeking baptism for their child are expected to be registered members of the parish. To allow for sufficient time for pre-baptismal preparation, please contact the Parish office at least three months in advance, preferably prior to the birth of the child. A schedule of the Baptism preparation classes and Baptism Sundays are listed on the back page of this pamphlet.

Baptism is celebrated on a chosen Sunday of each month at 1:00pm. A schedule of baptismal Sundays is listed in this pamphlet. A family wishing baptism during Sunday Mass must be active, participating, contributing members of Ascension Parish.

Priests from outside the parish who are family/friends may baptize at their convenience or are welcome to concelebrate the Sunday Mass and confer baptism.

Godparents must be fully initiated, practicing Roman Catholics who are at least age 16; a baptized Christian can serve as a witness in place of one of the sponsors. Non-Baptized persons may not act as sponsors. Those chosen as godparents must obtain sponsor certificates from their parish stating they are practicing Roman Catholics in good standing. *Sponsor certificates must be complete and returned to the parish office prior to the Pre-Baptism Instruction to secure Baptism date.*

Any sacrament is priceless. But a family is free to make a donation to Ascension Parish. A suggested donation of \$100. or more will surely help the parish baptismal program.

Through the sacrament of baptism, the Church welcomes your child into its midst with love and prayers for the future peace and happiness of your family. The staff and baptism preparation team of Ascension Parish are here to assist you in whatever way we can. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.