



APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

1 | Page

ST GABRIEL ANGLICAN PARISH OF FLORIDA

Goldman Street & 4th Avenue, Florida | P O Box 65, Florida, 1710

Tel: +27 11 472-3460/1 WhatsApp: +27 66 490 1553

Email: admin@stgabrielsflorida.co.za

<p>Please complete the following for the Church's records This information will be treated as confidential (Children 18+ years old please fill your own form)</p>		<p><i>Would you like to join St Gabriels as your place of worship?</i></p>										
		Yes	No	Already a member								
		<p><i>Which service would/do you attend?</i></p>										
		Sunday 7am	Sunday 9am	Wed. 9:30am								
Proposed Name:		Date Of Birth:										
Date:	Parent 1		Parent 2									
Surname												
Full Names												
Preferred Name												
Baptised / Confirmed	Bapt.	Y	N	Conf.	Y	N	Bapt.	Y	N	Conf.	Y	N
Initials												
Title (Mr./Mrs...etc.)												
Marital Status												
Date of Marriage												
Name of Employer (Specify if unemployed)												
Occupation												
Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)												
Age												
Street Address			Postal Code: _____									
Postal Address			Postal Code: _____									
Telephone Home												
Telephone Work												
Cell Phone												
Email Address												
Religious Practice												

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

2 | Page

GODPARENTS	
NAMES & SURNAME	CHURCH
1:	
2:	
3:	

The Godparents have been Baptised and at least one of them is a communicant of the Christian faith

NB: At least two Godparents, one Godfather and one Godmother must be nominated. Parents may, if qualified, act as Godparents and may, by proxy answer for Godparents living at a distance.

We will:

1. Teach our child to say his / her prayers,
2. Bring him/her to a Sunday School of the Anglican Church as soon as practical, and
3. Do our best to see that he / she is confirmed by the Bishop and
4. best becomes a regular communicant.

We understand that there is to be Instruction on Holy Baptism before the Sacrament is to be administered.

Signature of:

Father:

Mother:

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

3 | Page

TO PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Baptism Preparation: Please read this carefully

WHAT IT IS - and what it is not

HOLY BAPTISM

Gone are the days when you could regard Baptism as a purely private affair concerning just your family; Baptism must not be seen as joining a club, or a social convention. You are required both to understand what baptism is about and realise that it involves serious and personal commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church.

Here are three points from Holy Scripture for you to consider - and discuss with your priest

1. Baptism is incorporated in the Body of Christ- the Church, which is the worshipping body of believers
2. Baptism is a spiritual new birth whereby we become children of God. As we are born naturally into a human family, so are we born spiritually into the Divine Family of God's People. With God adopting us at Baptism a new relationship begins, which also has to be fostered.
3. Baptism is not magic, nor a social or Church convention. As with all relationships (and covenants), it will benefit neither us nor the other party unless we live consciously as worshipping Christians and bring our children up to do so too. Regeneration (new birth) takes place in Baptism, but Conversion (conscious acceptance of the Christian faith and life) comes later. We need to be taught the Faith we need to practice the life.

GODPARENTS

NO grownup person can be baptised unless he/she repents of his/her sins and declares that he/she sincerely believes the Christian Faith and he/she really wants to be baptised. AS an infant cannot do this. and in order that the child may be assisted by sponsors, as well as by parents, to learn and practice the Christian Way. The Church requires that the child has godparents who will ask for Baptism in the child's name and undertake a spiritual responsibility for the child.

The essential part of a godparent's responsibility lies in teaching his/her god-child what his/her Baptism means, so explaining the three promises made for the child, viz:

1. To renounce everything that is sinful and evil;
2. To believe the Christian faith as put forward in the (Apostles') Creed
3. To keep God's Commandments.

It is important that the godparents should not be lightly chosen, nor simply selected from close friends or relations. It is reasonable for the Church to request that the godparents should themselves hold and practise the Christian Faith. The Church insists that all godparents are to be Baptised persons; it is intended that all of them should be communicants of the Christian faith; but if this is not possible, then at least one must be. Godparents who are unable to be present at the Baptism may answer by proxy Note that parents, if otherwise qualified, may act as Godparents; for the Church is not unmindful of the central and governing role which they play in the spiritual upbringing of their children.

A boy customarily has two godfathers and one godmother, and a girl should have [two godmothers and one godfather. In the same way, an adult should have two sponsors/witnesses of the same sex, and one of the opposite sex.

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

4 | Page

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

Many parents come seeking the Baptism of their children gratitude at the wonderful thing God has done for them in giving them a child. out of a deep sense of awe and wrong to discourage or dishonour that thankful instinct - yet It would be many of these same parents would shrink from calling themselves practising Christians in the sense of being committed to Christ and the Church. It is for this reason, as well as providing for committed Christians, that the Church provides a Service of Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, which includes thanks for the mother's recovery of full health after the event. This Thanksgiving or Churching of Women (as it was called for many years past) can be arranged on any convenient day, and it can be done in a hospital, at home with the family or in Church. It would also be a good thing if done in Church, for the father (at least) to be present with the mother. Let it be said plainly that this Thanksgiving IS not Holy Baptism, even If done just before the Baptism of a child. But It may be that such a service is the most honest thing for many parents to choose rather than Baptism. Integrity is what matters, and it is better for parents to do what they can honestly do, than to proceed to Baptism on a basis which they well know IS dishonest, and which will communicate to their children in future years the fact that their parents live with a double standard.

BAPTISM AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

Whilst maintaining that the place for Baptism IS in the heart of the local Christian community to which we belong, the Church (recognising that we live in a mobile society in our present items) does permit the Baptism of children outside the community. It has to be borne in mind. however, that Baptism from other parishes cannot be accepted without the written consent of the Priest of the Parish in which the parents reside -the only exception being the case of those who are on the Non-Resident Parishioners' Roll of the parish where the Baptism is desired.

PLEASE NOTE that it is courtesy of the parents to give an appropriate thanks offering to the church.

INSTRUCTION

Adults wishing to be baptised and people wishing to be confirmed have always been expected to undergo a time of study and instruction in the faith of the Christian Church. So too, It IS now commonly asked of parents to do something similar as they prepare for the Baptism of the child. As their marriage preparation should have been a time of reflection on the Christian basis on which their home was to be built, so Holy Baptism iS a good moment to ask what Christian parenthood really involves - especially when the Baptism of their first child is in view. We all need to take stock occasionally and it is right for the Church to ask parents to do so at this point. It is in fact part of a Canon (law) of the Anglican Church in South Africa for E

"when infants or young children are Baptised, it shall be the duty of the Priest to ensure that the parents, or those who are responsible for the upbringing of the child, receive such instruction in the Christian faith as will enable them to renew their own commitment to Christ and to promote the nurture and growth in the fellowship of the Church of the child or children in their care"

LASTLY

Confirmation completes the gift of Baptism and admits to the highest privilege of Church membership - the Holy Communion. Parents and godparents are required to take care that their child is brought to the Bishop in due time to be Confirmed by him.