

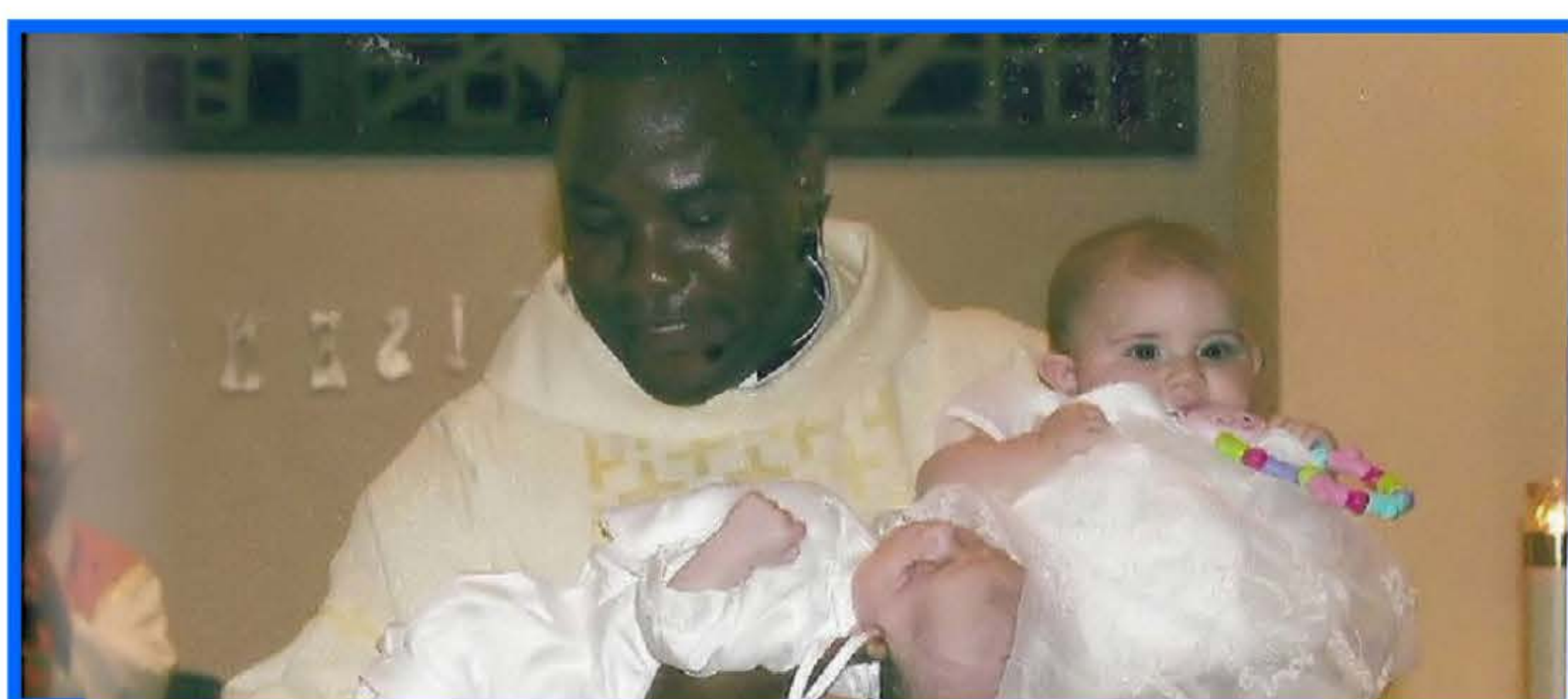


Baptism

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Children are unique and precious gifts for whom parents and guardians provide bodily nutrition, intellectual stimulus, emotional development and social guidance. Children are much more! They are made in God's image and likeness; they are made to know, love, and serve God and to be happy with him for all eternity. A parent's responsibility for a child's spiritual formation is of utmost importance. That responsibility begins with the sacrament of Baptism, which removes original sin and incorporates the child into the community of the Body of Christ. Baptism also puts a child on a path to life-long spiritual formation and relationship with Christ and His Church.

Provide this great blessing for your child by contacting Ann Marie (352-489-3643) for a parent preparation session. If the child is seven years of age or older, there will also be a



referral to MaryAlice Hogan, the Faith Formation Coordinator at (352-489-3166) so that the faith of your child can be enlightened through education.

"Seek first the kingdom of God, and all things will be given unto you." Baptism opens the door to new life!

Biblical Reference

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him" (Acts 2:38-39; *italic for emphasis on children*).

CLARIFICATION: "Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus " means "baptized into Christ"; that is, baptize in the manner Christ commanded by using water and invoking the name of the Trinity: "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" (Matthew 28:19).

Teaching of the Church

The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son/[daughter] of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact, the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1279).

