



## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

### The Catholic Baptismal Certificate

Every Catholic parish keeps an official record of the Baptisms which have been celebrated in that parish.

After a child (*or* adult) is baptized, his or her name is entered into the baptismal register of the parish where the Baptism took place. Also included in the baptismal register are the names of the parents, the sponsors, the city and date of birth, the date of the Baptism, and the name of the minister who presided. After the Baptism, the family receives a record of that information in a baptismal certificate. This certificate is a copy of the official record of Baptism.

Throughout the life of a Catholic, whenever an event takes place which affects his or her status in the church, the parish of Baptism is notified and the baptismal record is updated. If a Catholic celebrates the sacrament of Confirmation, is married in the church, has a marriage annulled in the church, is ordained, or enters a religious community, a notation is made in the baptismal record. Therefore, the original baptismal certificate will most likely become outdated at certain times. An accurate, updated baptismal certificate can always be obtained by contacting the parish of Baptism.

If, for whatever reason, a parish closes, the baptismal records are transferred to another parish, generally one located nearby. For help in finding baptismal records, you may contact the chancery office of the diocese where the Baptism took place.

Shortly after your child's Baptism, a baptismal certificate will be mailed to your family. Please note that the certificate always includes the father's full name and the mother's full **maiden** name.