

General Baptism Instructions

Through birth a child is given to parents; through baptism a child is given to God. At baptism the parents acknowledge that their parenthood is a participation in God's parenthood; that all fatherhood and motherhood comes from God. Thus baptism frees the parents from a sense of owning their children. Children belong to God and are given to the parents to love and care for in God's name. It is the parents' vocation to welcome their children as honored guests in their home and bring them to the physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom that enables them to leave the home and become parents themselves. Baptism reminds parents of this vocation and sets children on the path of freedom. – Henri Nouwen

- At St. Paul we baptize children on the 3rd Sunday of the month usually after the 8:30am Mass in English and after the 12:30pm Mass in Spanish.
- On the second Thursday evening of each month, we offer a three hour preparation class for parent(s) and godparent(s) of the child. There is a \$15.00 fee for the parent(s) and a \$5.00 fee per person for godparent(s) to attend this class. This fee is for materials. After completing the training you will receive a certificate of training that is valid for three years.
- If you are not a registered member(s) of St. Paul, we would encourage you to register and worship with us. If the godparent(s) are not from St. Paul, they are required to submit a letter from their local Catholic Church saying that they are practicing the Catholic faith and are in good standing with the church.
- Parent(s) of an infant child to be baptized should live within the territorial boundaries of St. Paul. Parent(s), who do not live within the boundaries of St. Paul and or are not registered at St. Paul, must obtain written permission from the pastor of the parish in which they reside, or in which they are formally registered.
- Parent(s) must complete an "Application for Baptism" online and pay for the class (if needed).
- Each parent and godparent should download and complete the [Journey of Faith](#) handout, answer the questions and bring it to the preparation class.

- Parent(s) must provide a copy of the child's official city/state birth certificate to the parish office. Children older than six must receive Religious Education instruction prior to the Baptism. Parent(s) will be referred to the Director of Religious Education.

- A child for baptism is given a Godparent that the parent(s) choose who will assist in the Christian initiation or together with parent(s), presents an infant for baptism.

- Only one Godparent is required for Baptism. If two Godparents are chosen, (one of each gender should be selected.)

- To be qualified to serve as a Godparent, a person must:
 - Be 16 years old or older

 - Be practicing the Catholic faith. If the Godparent(s) are not member(s) of St. Paul, a letter must be provided from the pastor of their church indicating they are member(s) of that parish and are in good standing.

 - Be a Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. If the Godparent(s) is/are married, their marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church (married by a priest or deacon.)

 - A form called "Baptism Sponsor Covenant" must be downloaded and completed by Godparent(s). By signing this form the godparents for the child are testifying that they are Catholics in good standing with the Church, fully initiated into the Church (received their sacraments) and if applicable, in a marriage recognized by the Church.

 - Godparent(s) must attend a Baptism Preparation Class. Godparent(s) may not have to take the class if the class was taken within three years of the date for the Baptism. Proof is required. Attendance at another parish requires a letter or other notice substantiating the class was taken with the parish name and date the class was taken.

- Prior to the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism the following tasks MUST be completed:
 - Application for Baptism must be completed and received by the parish office
 - A copy of the child's Birth Certificate must be turned into the parish office
 - The Baptism Sponsor Covenant form must be turned into the parish office for each Godparent
 - A Baptism Preparation Class must be taken at St. Paul or proof it was taken at another Catholic Church within three (3) years of the Baptism date.

Congratulations from all of us at St. Paul Catholic Church on the gift of your child. We hope this answers many of your questions. If you have questions not answered here please contact the parish office: 512-280-4460