

General Baptism Instructions

Congratulations from all of us at St. Paul Catholic Church on the gift of your child. Listed below are some frequently asked questions that others have asked, we hope they answer yours. Please call the parish office if you have additional questions.

- At St. Paul we baptize children on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10am.
- On the 2nd Thursday 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 person for godparent(s) to attend this class. This fee is for materials.
- 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).
- 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). Anyone chosen to be a Godparent(s) for the child by signing this form testifying that they are a Catholic in good standing with the Church, fully initiated into the Church (received their sacraments) and if applicable, is 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.
- Before you are able to celebrate 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.

We hope this answers your questions. If you have questions not answered here please contact the parish office.

Thank you.